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Winter Issue

# Camping

## GO WILD!

SPECIAL ISSUE: YOUR COMPLETE GUIDE  
TO PITCHING UP IN THE WILDERNESS

### GET OUT THERE

*Everything you need  
to know about wild  
camping - where, when  
and how to go about it*

GEAR GUIDE  
12 PAGES OF IDEAS FOR  
ALL YOUR PRESENT-  
BUYING NEEDS

### WILD WALES

*Camping under the  
stars on a mystical  
journey through  
stunning countryside*

### GOING TO EXTREMES

*A wild camping adventure at  
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# WELCOME

Winter Special



Going wild. See pages 10-15

**C**ampsites have got lots going for them. There are hot showers and flushing toilets for a start, and usually a shop selling essentials like milk and bread. You'll get a nice flat pitch and if you want one, an electric hook-up. Some sites have fabulous views, others are perfectly located on the edge of towns. And you'll always find someone to have a friendly chat with. But despite all that, a growing number of campers instead choose to pitch their tent halfway up a mountain or deep in the woods, miles away from the nearest working loo.

More and more people are turning to wild camping for an "authentic" experience, where they can enjoy the great outdoors in all its natural beauty, far away from the stresses of modern living. But although it's more popular than ever, many people are wary of trying it, mostly through fear of the unknown. In this special issue, we've enlisted a team of wild camping veterans who will hopefully show you that, as long as you prepare properly, there's absolutely nothing to be worried about. And as well as providing you with some essential dos and don'ts, they'll also dispel the most commonly-held misconceptions that surround wild camping.

As you'll find out, wild camping is something anyone can do so why not give it a go?



Happy camping

*Iain*

Iain Duff Editor

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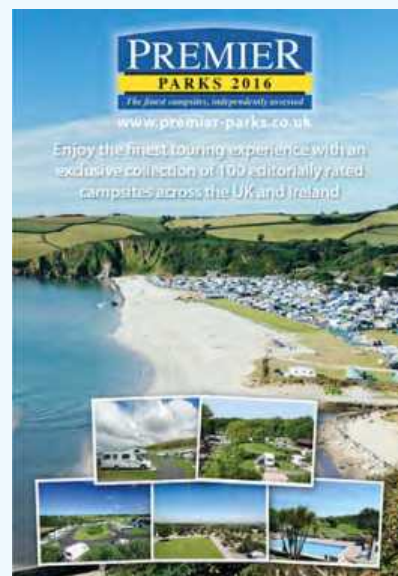
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The Willows, Abersoch. One of the 100 Premier Parks sites

## A TON OF QUALITY

To recognise the array of high-quality sites that are now available to campers, 100 top parks have been selected to join the exclusive Premier Parks collection.

Premier Parks is a collection of high-quality touring parks across Britain and Ireland independently assessed by the editorial team of leading UK outdoor leisure magazines – including *Camping*.

The sites range in size, location and the facilities offered, but they all provide a first-rate experience worthy of the Premier Parks name. During the assessment process, the main factors the editors take into account include; stunning views, a great location, perfect pitches, a neat and tidy site, facilities that are of a good standard, and any unique or outstanding on-site features. The overall ‘feel’ of the site and whether it would be recommended

to friends and family is also considered.

For 2016, the grading has become even tougher, meaning only the 100 very best sites were invited to join. Spread throughout England, Scotland, Wales and Ireland, the sites offer everything from large holiday parks with every facility, to quieter adult-only hideaways.

Claire Tupholme, travel and sites editor for Premier Parks’ administrator Warners Group Publications said: “It’s time to recognise that today’s campers demand high-quality facilities and beautifully maintained sites. Whatever people are looking for in a touring holiday, we’re confident that they will find a site that suits them from within the Premier Parks group.”

The full list of the 100 Premier Parks can be viewed on the dedicated website [www.premier-parks.co.uk](http://www.premier-parks.co.uk)



Mother Ivey's Bay Holiday Park

# THE MONTH

*What's new in camping?*

## HALLE-LOO-JAH

Extra guests coupled with rich food and lots of booze inevitably leads to queues for the loo over Christmas. But don't panic... thanks to tent company OLPRO you can now have an extra WC – with a festive theme. This pop-up tent features a festive fir tree design that can be turned into a Christmas tree with a little creativity. Pitch it in the garden or in a spare room and put a portable toilet inside for discreet extra “facilities”. Alternatively, it can be used for storage to hide all that Christmas clutter. The OLPRO Pop Up Toilet Tree tent costs £29.99. Find out more at [www.olpro.co.uk](http://www.olpro.co.uk)



## PUT ON THE MAP

Are you lost when it comes to fashion? A new company that lets you create unique t-shirts based on topographical map data could point you in the right direction. MapOnShirt takes geospatial maps and “re-imagines” them as colourful, wearable art. Designs can be personalised to feature locations across the globe, from your favourite landscapes to your local neighbourhood.

MapOnShirt uses OpenStreetMap (OSM) data for its creations and the wearer can make the map truly personal with the option to add text, map markers and logos. The soft poly fabric is also moisture wicking so can be worn while you're out on the trail.

For more details visit the Map on Shirt website [maponshirt.com](http://maponshirt.com)



## STAR S'MORES

Roasted Ewok anyone? With the release of the new movie, everyone's going Star Wars mad this month – and we're no different. Hope Vader has permission for that campfire...



# LET'S TALK CAMPING

In association with **Coleman**

## STAR LETTER

During our stay at RCN La Ferme De Latois, near Coëx in the heart of Vendée last summer, my wife Mel took her water colours to help pass away the sunny afternoons we usually spend chilling on site.

Glass of rose in hand, she fortunately decided to paint the lovely Outwell tent that was pitched opposite us. I say fortunately, as she is a member of a local life drawing evening class, and if she was painting her usual subject, she may have caused more than a few passing comments or two! Joking aside, the painting turned out to be a great ice-breaker between the two families, and a great time was had by all. The campsite comes highly recommended for anybody looking for a family friendly site in the Vendée.

**Nige Jones, Derby**

*Pretty as a picture! - Ed*



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£49.99

Nige's star letter wins him a **COLEMAN HEATON PEAK COMFORT 220** sleeping bag, combining extra-large dimensions with warm and cosy, deep-fill insulation. Lined with ultra-soft cotton-flannel and featuring a cosy comfort cuff. For more information on Coleman products visit **COLEMAN.EU**



At the beginning of this year due to difficulty with access and storage I decided to change from a trailer tent to a tent.

Never having had a tent before I started by getting *Camping* mag every month and it seemed that there were three points that were important in choosing which tent to buy.

1. Cost: I had a maximum that I wanted to pay.
2. Ease of pitching: I am on my own.
3. Size: Must be able to stand upright in it, as I am over 70 years with arthritis.

I went for an Outwell Corvette M 4 Air which proved to be simple to pitch and so far I have only found one problem, that on most sites now you pitch to the right of your pitch marker. Unfortunately on the Corvette the door is on the left, looking from the front, so this makes things awkward.

A couple of things I noticed during this period of buying a tent.

Why do you have to buy a family size tent to get the height to enable you to stand upright? And why, when spending what is a lot of money on an item, can the makers not include a proper How To DVD with each tent model, instead of you having to search the internet, which I must say doesn't give all the information needed?

This DVD should show how to pitch the tent from the very basics to the dreaded folding up. Also, little things like how tight should the tent be pulled when pegging down or how tight should the guyropes be. I would have thought this would be a simple thing for the makers to do.

**Chippie, Shropshire**

*Interesting idea there Chippie. Maybe one of the manufacturers would like to respond (we know they're reading!)? - Ed*

Just discovered that the camping photo of my son I sent in has won star photo, and that I've won a tent... well chuffed... Thanks

**Perry Ambler, via Facebook**

*You're very welcome - Ed*

Just back from a brilliant family camping trip to Fife. It was out of season but the weather was wonderful and we had a great time, even if we got a few funny looks from the caravanners! We always worried about taking our tent out after summer but as long as you are well wrapped up and have the right gear there's no reason why you can't camp all year round. Bring on February half-term!

**Sam Reeves, Cheltenham**

*Well said Sam. Camping can be a 365-day of the year hobby! - Ed*

## THE CAMPING SOCIAL

Twitter and Facebook answer the big camping questions

### Where and when was your first ever camping trip?

**Tallington Lakes @TallingtonLakes**

Makeshift tent in the back garden! Surely that's everyone first camping experience :) Clothes line and a blanket; thankfully it wasn't raining!

**Darren Swift**

Like everyone in the world it was back garden, cricket field over the back of the road and then a cycle trip from South Bradford to Appletreewick. Miss those days as a kid.

**Lauren Footitt**

Robin Hood's Bay in the smallest, cheapest tent ever. We've come along way since then!

**Ian White**

Brakes Coppice in Crowhurst, near Hastings

**ShellieF1 @ShellieF1**

I was 7, it was in Swanage - I can still remember the awful tent toilets (aka holes in the ground) now!!!!!!

**Deb Hill**

Stanmore at Bridgnorth

**Candy Evans @creva**

Does a blanket tent underneath the dining table count?

**Cobby Cobs Cobweb**

Back garden then Standon Bowers with school

**Maria Larmer**

Clobee, co Waterford. Ireland . 1975

Join the camping community



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## STAR PHOTO



**Above** At Aberafon campsite in North Wales, the rain eventually stopped at 9pm enabling us to get warm with a beach fire, just yards from our tent. **Peter Baker, Liverpool**

**Right** A campsite at Fort William right at the side of Ben Nevis, beautiful scenery and an excellent site. **Hazel Kennedy, via email**



Peter's star photo wins him a **COLEMAN INSTANT DOME 3**, featuring an innovative, spider-like steel frame that means it can be pitched and set down in just 60 seconds.



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# SNAPPY CAMPERS

In association with **Coleman**



**Left** Peace and quiet shattered, the grandkids paid us a surprise visit. **Cliff Nicholson, Middlesbrough**

**Right** Flaked out after a long day's walking, now time for a snooze! **Gail Jordan, Preston, Lancashire**



**Above** After a hard day's camping... peace! **William Cadd, via email**





## CORNWALL SITE IS OPEN FOR WINTER

Cornwall's Whitsand Bay Fort Holiday Park is one of a number of sites happy to welcome campers this winter.

The open-all-year site near Looe and Plymouth can certainly provide a festive break with a difference – set high and within the grounds of three Napoleonic Forts originally built to defend Plymouth during the Napoleonic Wars. The campsite, the only site on the Rame peninsula, has been incorporated around the fortifications with many of the original buildings preserved.

Facilities include the Vaults restaurant, promising “the finest carvery on the peninsula” and an indoor swimming pool that’s only closed on Christmas Day. The facilities block is centrally heated and includes family sized individual luxury shower rooms. Offsite, there are plenty of coastal paths for walking, plus the Cremyll-Plymouth ferry operates all-year-round.

A typical price is £84 for four pre-Christmas nights for two adults and two children, on a standard pitch (6m x 5m) with electric hook-up and adjacent parking.

Alternatively, you could stay in one of the site’s lodges.

More information at [www.whitsandbayholidays.co.uk](http://www.whitsandbayholidays.co.uk).

## STRONG FIRST YEAR FOR READY CAMP

Ready Camp, a new initiative from the Camping and Caravanning Club for the season just gone, has reported great success in attracting newcomers to camping.

It says some 80% of its Ready Camp visitors were non-Club members, a large proportion of whom were also new to camping generally.

The Ready Camp project involves pre-pitched safari-style tents at 17 of its Club

sites throughout Britain. Prices start from £20 per night, but you have to book for three nights minimum, and all you need to bring in terms of camping equipment is your own bedding and towels. Each tent provides sleeping accommodation – double bed, triple bunks and a pull-out bed – as well as fully equipped kitchens, meal preparation utensils, crockery and cutlery, cleaning gear and more... all the way through to an all-important torch.

Bob Hill, sites director at The Camping and Caravanning Club, says: “We’re delighted that Ready Camp has been such a hit, particularly among non-members of the Club. We positioned the offering as a great option for anyone keen to try camping under canvas for the first time, but not yet ready to invest in camping equipment.”

You can book now for the season ahead. Find out more at [www.readycamp.co.uk](http://www.readycamp.co.uk).



## A LLANDOVERY DISCOVERY?

Pitch up at Erwlon Touring Caravan and Camping Park during the festive season and you might hear sounds that are music to your ears.

The AA five-star Carmarthenshire site, at the foothills of the Brecon Beacons, has been going since the late 1950s and is still in the hands of the Rees family.

Llandovery lights up for Christmas from November 27, when its own male voice choir will be performing. There are also festive events at the nearby National Botanic Garden of Wales, at Llanarthne. The market town of Llandovery is a 10-minute walk away.

Erwlon’s facilities include a centrally heated, solar-powered toilet and shower block with four family rooms as well as individual showers. The laundry/washing-up area is also heated.

Find out more at [www.erwlon.co.uk](http://www.erwlon.co.uk).



## HAVE A SANDY CHRISTMAS

Sandy Balls in the New Forest may be closed for tents through the winter, but you can still go and camp there – in its pods. Pods were added to the Sandy Balls offerings in 2014. Each is designed to take up to a family of four, with sleeping accommodation on a double sofa bed and two pull-out singles. You also get electric lighting, fridge, kettle, TV etc plus – for the winter months – an all-important heater. You’ll need to bring your own camping gear and bedding. There’s also a choice of pet-friendly or pet-free pods. Prices start from £15 per person per night for a three-night weekend break, going all the way through to next spring. At the time of writing, places were very limited.

Find out more at [www.sandyballs.co.uk](http://www.sandyballs.co.uk).



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# LET'S GO *Wild*

**Wild camping is the chance to shake off the shackles of modern living and it could change your life forever. Stephen Neale shares everything you need to know to get started.**





I met an elderly man while out walking my dog in the woods one day. We got chatting as our old pooches chased, circled, and flopped about each other. We laughed as we watched, while swapping what I thought mundane and meaningless conversation.

The man told me he was a professional artist. He'd been a painter all his life. His reticence to expand on his craft indulged my nosiness. But I had to go, so I said goodbye.

And then he said something, that I've never forgotten: "The greatest art is produced by children before they are 'taught'," he said.

"Taught to do what?" I asked.

"Taught how to paint and draw," he said. "The magic is lost once they go to school. The magic is taught out of them."

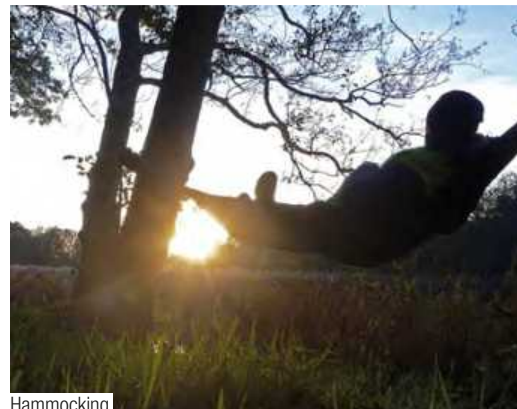
When I got home, I put the kettle on. I went to the fridge for the milk, and on the door was a magnet my wife had put there several years ago to hold up bills. Written on the magnet was a message glued to a hundred thousand fridges. It read: "While we try to teach our children all about life, our children teach us what life is all about." And I thought about the old man. And then I remembered what I enjoyed most as a child before I was 'taught'. It was sleeping in the garden under a sheet thrown over the washing line. So I went and bought a tent.

Kids love magic. Adults do too, but sometimes we forget that. It's easily done. Draped in the warm, drudgery of bills, TVs, chores, 9-5 work, and quick-fix pleasures. Sleeping outdoors contains a magic cure to 21st Century amnesia. It's expensive. Not in a 'monetary' sort of way. Wild camping is virtually zero cost if you choose to do it in summer. No. The burden is on your time. The very thing we convince ourselves we don't have enough of.

Wild camping reconnects us with the very thing we've lost: our body clocks and the outdoors (if you're a bad sleeper, it's a great cure). It reminds us what we've been missing since we left childhood. Since we had the magic 'taught out' of us. The adventure. The art of having fun. Sleeping in the garden. At the beach. At summer camps. And then in the hills. Because we've been taught to be frightened, the dark outdoors has been wrung out of us; and in a sense, I think we 'teach' our kids to do that too. Because we fear for them more than we fear for our frightened selves.

You don't believe me, do you? OK. Go try it. You will need to be brave. Abandon your car. Abandon your fear. Throw off everything you've been taught since leaving childhood. On a clear summer's night, go and walk under the stars and in an unenclosed space, far from any road or building, lay down and sleep. It will change your life forever. ☺

Stephen Neale is the author of *Wild Camping: Exploring and Sleeping in the Wilds of the UK and Ireland*, published by Bloomsbury | [www.bloomsbury.com/uk/wild-camping-9781472900340](http://www.bloomsbury.com/uk/wild-camping-9781472900340)



Hammocking



Saxon Shore Way

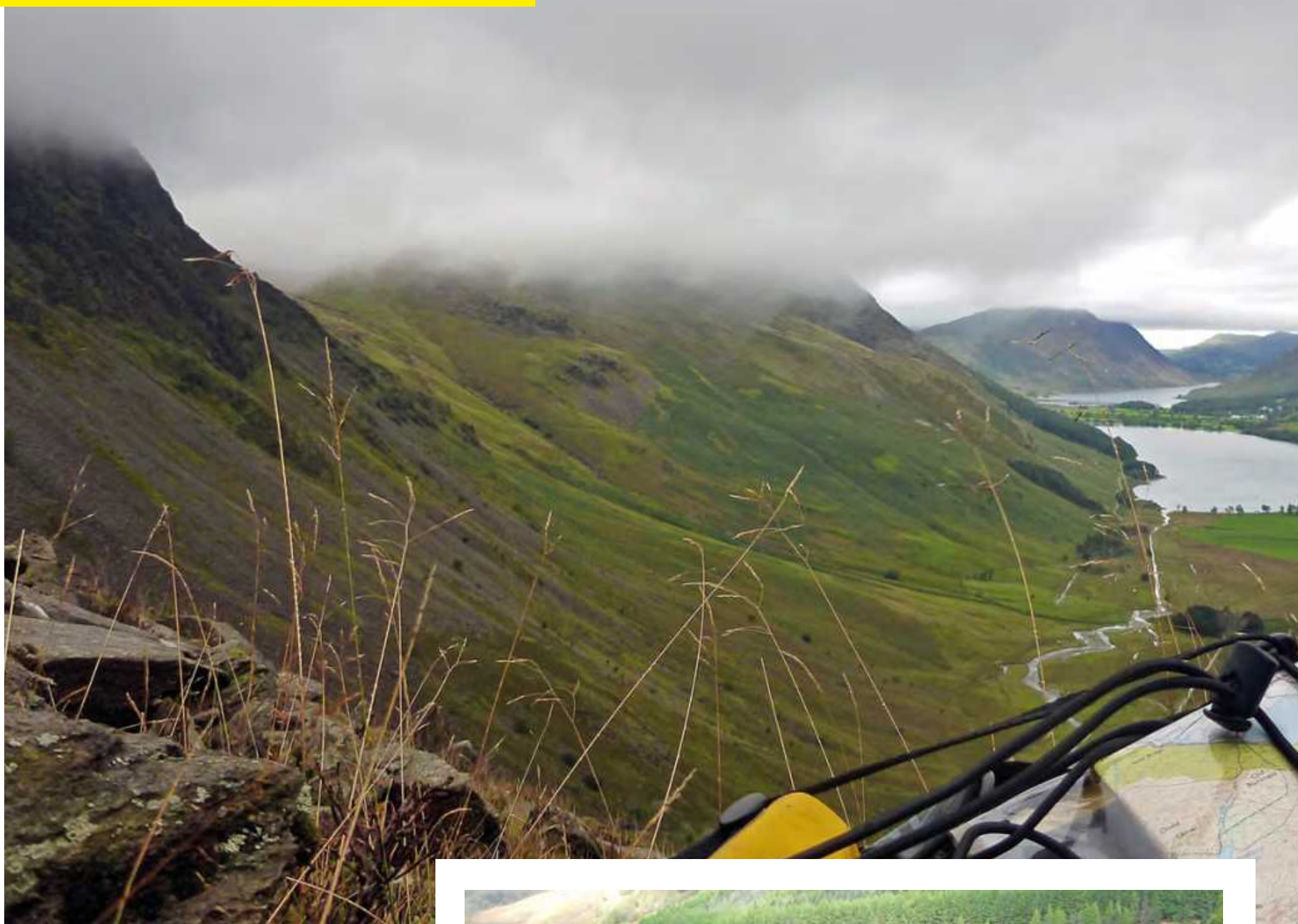


Offa's Dyke



Stour and Orwell Way





## WHAT IS WILD CAMPING?

In its purest form it is sleeping outdoors in an unenclosed space – without walls or fences – far from roads or buildings. There's a myth that it's illegal. It isn't. We need to unlearn that. Remember how we built dens as kids? The Forestry Commission and National Trust both promote den building and night-time sleeping for kids. They are sometimes less enthusiastic about adults sleeping on some of the lands they control. But in general, both of these agencies and their wonderful staff are force for good when it comes to helping people get into the outdoors.

There are places in the UK where wild camping is enshrined as a 'right' in British law. These include Dartmoor, and all of Scotland. More than 70% of Forestry Commission owned land is in Scotland. Can you see where we are going with this? Rolling back the learnt behaviour of being told, "No."

Where there isn't a 'right' to camp per se, sleeping exists as a necessary part of other rights: the right to fish at night on tidal waters. The right to walk thousands of miles across public rights of way, day and night; the right to navigate on tidal waterways, in between waiting for the high tide to return in the morning (sleeping while waiting for the tide is a perfectly natural right).

There are of course rules around wild



Caledonian Canal

camping. That's what life's all about. Playing by the rules. Those old dogs I mentioned earlier playing together in the wood; they abided by rules. Social ones. Common law. They didn't bite each other. And when one said 'enough play', the other would stop.

Wild camping is controlled by civil law, not criminal law. It's an important distinction. You cannot be 'prosecuted' for wild camping. Signs that say 'Trespassers will be Prosecuted' are designed to create fear. They are a fiction. Unlearn them. And just be civil (e.g.: by never lighting a fire without permission or never being rude to a

landowner who chooses to move of us).

So we need rules. Just to make sure that we are not being offensive. A simple rule of outdoor sleeping, is the ABCD rule:

Ask the landowner's permission (if you can find he or she; if not don't worry too much).

Be discreet – camp away from roads and buildings.

Clean up and leave no trace.

Don't stay more than one night.

That's the legal stuff. After that it's all easy. One last thing. And it's important. Try not to think of the camping – or more importantly, the sleeping – as a means to an





Buttermere

end. Sleep is the cocoon at the end of the river or trail you've found yourself on after everyone else has gone home. It's the place where the sailors, mountaineers, hikers, canoeists and pilgrims have been camping out for centuries – hidden from the public consciousness. An adventure that's better than legal. Because it's free.

## HOW DO I DO IT?

There's an important qualification to wild camping. Firstly, you need to be tired. So find a section of trail that will take you at least eight hours to walk, cycle or canoe. There will be several within five miles of your home (although most of them will have no name – just join the dots yourself on an OS map).

You will need a compass as well as map. Getting into the outdoors requires a vehicle. No, not planes, trains or automobiles. There are three distinct vehicle options into the wild:

- Walking
- Cycling
- Canoeing and kayaking

Finally, you need to find somewhere to sleep. Well, take your pick. Make sure you are as far away as possible from roads and buildings. Find some flat ground in a discreet place, hidden from general view, about an hour before dark. Go away to kill some time until dusk, then return and pitch your bivvy or tent. ☺

## GEAR

Once you know where you are going, and whether you are going to walk, cycle or canoe, the next big decision is how much gear to take. Wild campers learn how to be lightweight survivors. They carry in their backpacks the essentials to stay alive: warmth, shelter, hydration and food. And that's a great lesson for your kids too.

You will need a sleeping bag, a mat and a tent or bivvy. Some sleeping bags dual as bivvies, with waterproof wraps. I prefer a five-season sleeping bag and a waterproof shelter – either a tent, tarp or bivvy, which I choose depending on terrain or length of trip. I use the Rab Ridge Raider bivvy more than anything else, just because my trips tend to be mostly one night and because it can be set up almost anywhere in 90 seconds.

Once my bedroom choice is sorted out, the rest of my gear will depend on where I'm going, and the time of years. Here's my check list of starters.

### GPS LOCATOR AND MESSAGE SYSTEM

#### PHONE

### TORCH, MAP, COMPASS AND AN ABILITY TO NAVIGATE

For torches, I carry two cycle headlamp/bike lamp 1800LM CREE XM-L T6 LEDs. They last for up to eight hours each on the lowest setting, and about 90 minutes on full beam, which virtually lights up an entire

valley for 100 yards. They come with rechargeable batteries.

I carry three compasses, one set into a whistle, one as an app on my phone and one regular compass. I've never needed more than the latter, but I do regularly check its accuracy with the phone app – just in case.

#### CLOTHES

Clothes choice is about staying dry and warm, without causing perspiration or condensation. Obviously summer is usually less burdensome than the middle of winter, but I make an assessment on worst case scenario, with my clothing list (other than jeans) starting like this:

- ▶ Two woollen base layers
- ▶ A cheap fleece, of thickness depending on season
- ▶ Pertex jacket with a Primaloft stuffing
- ▶ A lightweight hard-shell trouser and top.
- ▶ Shoes/boots are common-sense, but I go for Hi-Tec boots because they're made where I live, in Southend, I've worn them since I was 8, and they're amazing.

### PURITABS AND A WATER FILTER

#### STOVE

Fissure Ti-Tri cooking system; basically a coke can and steel cone that cooks on alcohol, esbit and wood) and a pot.

#### FOOD

I like to go for stuff that can mix with water – coffee, powdered milk, couscous. Anything I can add water to, to make a

meal. My favourites are Ainsley Harriot because they taste OK to me, weigh nothing and they're cheaper than some other backpackers' marketed meals.

### WALKING POLES

### KNIFE/AXE/SAW

#### FIRST AID KIT

Savlon and blister plasters etc., antiseptic wipes, long length of plaster, gauze, scissors, bandage, safety pins, tick removal card with mirror

#### FIRE LIGHTER

Including steel, vaselined wool, matches that light when wet (wet matches), three lighters

#### SPORK

### STUFF SACKS

#### DISHWASHING KIT

- ▶ Washing-up liquid/pot scrubber/dishcloth
- ▶ Sealable plastic bags
- ▶ Hand shovel
- ▶ Wet wipes
- ▶ Insect repellent/midge head-cover
- ▶ Multi-purpose soap
- ▶ Toilet paper
- ▶ Toothbrush
- ▶ Toothpaste
- ▶ Camera
- ▶ Kindle

If I'm walking or cycling, I aim to carry no more than 12kg (26lb) including the bag (excluding water), but it can be very tough to stick to.



Fissure Ti-Tri cooking system



## WHERE?

Your options are unlimited, but I categorise my sleeping zones into three types.

### COAST

The coast is possibly the most important common ground in Britain and Ireland. Our law has enshrined the right to fish, dig bait and canoe or kayak, without having to pay for the privilege, 24 hours a day. This means that while the tide is out, it's perfectly reasonable to camp, eat, light a fire and rest until you're able to carry on with your hobby.

Justifying overnight camping simply means combining night-time with a midnight to 4am low tide, ideally providing sleep between the hours of 6pm and 6am when the water is going out and coming back in.

### MOUNTAIN

Mountains are as far away from the foreshore as it's possible to get. Mountaineers and ramblers have been enjoying free sleep in the hills for ever. Today, there's still no one up there collecting pitch fees. A mountain is generally considered to be a hill that is higher than 600m/2,000ft. There are 120 in the UK and Ireland. Many landowners consider the minimum necessary height for wild camping to be 450m/1,500ft. Literally hundreds of hills fall within that category.

Although not enshrined in law (except in Dartmoor and Scotland), camping on mountains is mostly considered acceptable as part of a traditional and historic use of hills dating back centuries.

### THE BIG BIT IN BETWEEN

Middle Earth. The largest bit of land, wedged

in between the foreshore and the mountains. This is where we find almost all of our villages, towns and cities. It's wrong to say camping here is 'illegal'. You can wild camp anywhere with a landowner's permission. That might be a pub beer garden, a farmer's field where you bought some free range eggs, Aunt Nellie's front lawn, or something much bigger and exciting. Like a wood or moor.

## FOOD AND WATER

Richard Mabey's classic book *Food for Free* was published in the early 1970s and is still a bestseller. Mabey lists hundreds of flowers, weeds, buds, nuts, trees, fruits, vegetables, fungus and sea-fish that can be found in the wild and eaten. It may not be cool, but my preference is Ainsley Harriot dried meals.

Fresh water is the main issue for the camper, other than warmth and shelter. Filters and treatment systems have to cope with two pollutants: living (organic) and inanimate, which is usually chemical and needs to be removed from the water.

Perspective is important; 99.9% of chemicals that humans ingest are natural and not harmful. Do some checks before you go out on the possibility of contaminated water supplies. Boiling water kills all living contaminants. If you choose not to boil, filters come in various degrees of fineness. I use a Sawyer. Another good option is a Travel Tap. Canoeists tend to carry fresh water, as weight is not such an issue on board a boat. Nothing is 100% safe. I mostly carry and drink bottled water, and pack a filter just in case.

Childhood was more fun. We still believed in magic... and feared nothing but the wasps. \*



Cape Wrath Trail



Dartmoor



Sherwood Forest



South West Coast Path



Leeds and Liverpool Canal



Galloway Forest

## TOP 10 WILD SPOTS

### 1 SHERWOOD FOREST

#### Nottingham

Wild camping and bushcraft courses are provided by Forestry Commission. For anyone looking to start out with a family, these are a good introduction to sleeping outdoors. Knowledgeable rangers provide advice on fire lighting and shelter building.

To find out more or to make a booking contact Karina on 0300 067 5463 or email [karina.thornton@forestry.gov.uk](mailto:karina.thornton@forestry.gov.uk) or visit: <http://www.forestry.gov.uk/sherwood-bushcraft>

### 2 SOUTH WEST COAST PATH NATIONAL TRAIL

#### Cornwall

The National Trust allows wild camping at Tremayne Quay, a stopover that can be included as part of a longer family hike along the South West Coast Path. Like the Forestry Commission, the Trust hosts family days, and encourages kids to try wild camping. Wild camping and survival skills are available as part of working holidays the Trust provided. [www.nationaltrust.org.uk/holidays/working-holidays/](http://www.nationaltrust.org.uk/holidays/working-holidays/)

### 3 GALLOWAY FOREST

#### Southern Scotland

When I was a kid growing up in the south, I would stargaze. There's not much to see up there anymore, because 'light pollution' obscures the view. Galloway Forest in Scotland is the best place to go fix that. Gazing up at the Milky Way from your sleeping





Cumbria Buttermere



Pennine Way



Brecon Beacons



Snowdonia

bag is breathtaking. Visit in winter when the forest is midge free. Galloway Forest is probably the best hammocking zone, closest to England and Wales.

#### 4 LEEDS AND LIVERPOOL CANAL

##### Northern England

There are many places just off and along the canal for canoeists, cyclists and walkers to bivvy and hammock. At Old Hall Bridge, divert a little way south along the Pennine Way from where it meets the towpath. The Way leads to quiet lanes, an old Roman road, fort and disused railway line that should be explored via several short footpaths running north-east.

#### 5 DARTMOOR

##### Devon

Now this is wild country. The right to camp here is enshrined in law. To avoid getting lost (because so many do) consider sticking to any one of the many trails e.g. the Two Moors Way, the Dartmoor Way or Dartmoor Ramble. Find a wild camp in the north, between Kitty Tor and Lints Tor, one of the quieter parts of north Dartmoor, just north of the hut circles. To the east, walk in Houndtor Wood, along the River Bovey, to Lustleigh Cleave, before a short trek south for lunch at Becky Falls. Explore stone rows and circle around the River Erme, on Erme Plain, over a southern section of the moor, just to the west of Two Moors Way. For more information on sleeping out on Dartmoor visit [www.dartmoor-npa.gov.uk](http://www.dartmoor-npa.gov.uk)

#### 6 CAPE WRATH TRAIL

##### Northern Scotland

This trail – on the north-west coast of Scotland – is 351km/218 miles of the wildest terrain in Britain. Public access allows walkers to get into most remote and lake/loch-filled parts of Sutherland. There is also a proper campsite at Scourie, which can be used as a base for single night treks into the outback. Visit [www.scouriecampsitesutherland.com/](http://www.scouriecampsitesutherland.com/)

#### 7 LAKE DISTRICT

Like Sutherland, this is less a location, more of a wild camping geo-fest. Drovers tracks, grass tracks and bridleways provide virtually unlimited access, and although many of these routes can get busy in summer, there are plenty of places when after dark loneliness can feel very real. For more on wild camping advice in the lakes visit [www.lakedistrict.gov.uk/visiting/wheretostay/wildcamping](http://www.lakedistrict.gov.uk/visiting/wheretostay/wildcamping)

#### 8 THE CHEVIOTS/PENNINE WAY

##### North-east England

England's most untouched region. The Pennines. Beyond them, the Cheviots are the final frontier: really. A garrison of vistas that merge into Northumberland and Scotland; the scene of many battles between the English and Scottish. Climb to the Cheviot and walk the Scottish/English border along the Pennine Way, sleeping with your head in one and feet in the other. [www.nationaltrail.co.uk/pennine-way/information](http://www.nationaltrail.co.uk/pennine-way/information)

#### 9 BRECON BEACONS

##### South Wales

My favourite view in Wales is the scene from the top of the Beacons Way on Fan Foel over Llyn y Fan Fach; overnight on the flat of Corn Du mountain above the Usk valley before setting off in the morning for the adjoining Pen y Fan, the highest peak in South Wales. For more on camping in the national parks see [www.nationalparks.gov.uk/visiting/camping](http://www.nationalparks.gov.uk/visiting/camping) or join the Backpackers Club for a few pounds ([www.backpackersclub.co.uk](http://www.backpackersclub.co.uk)). The club provides a members' list of farmers, pubs and land owners who allow wild camping in Wales and England for no charge.

#### 10 THE GLYDERS/SNOWDONIA

##### North Wales

Looking into the faces of people stepping down from The Glyders is like peering into souls gorged on sunbeams and energy. Mountain air causes a chemical reaction in the brain that converts overdosing on Welsh wilderness into copious levels of naturally produced serotonin. I can confirm that this continues to happen days after returning to civilisation. No wonder then that, even in the 21st Century, mountains remain synonymous with transcendence.

Trek up to the peaks of Glyder Fach and Glyder Fawr before coming down to find a camp around the waters of Llyn Cwn; scramble on hands and feet to the top of Tryfan for views over the Cambrian Mountains.



# Going to extremes

For her new book *Wild Nights*, Phoebe Smith undertook a wild camping challenge – to sleep at all the extreme points of mainland Britain (highest, lowest, northernmost, southernmost, easternmost, westernmost and centremost point) on consecutive nights, by herself. Here she recounts one of her favourites on the westerly Ardnamurchan Peninsula in Scotland.





Wind screeched through the gaps in my hood as I struggled to climb over the fence. Somewhere over my shoulder the beam from the lighthouse was circling endlessly in the dark. Rain sprayed in my face and I fought to push forward against the intensity of the wind. Being November and in the midst of a rainstorm it was not an obvious night to head out camping.

But then camping in obvious places – such as campsite – and at more usual times – like the summer – has never truly been my forte. When it comes to sleeping under canvas, and indeed bedding down in general, I like to sleep wild. From caves to mountain tops, disused farmsteads and under giant boulders, I like to watch night fall from somewhere a little different, away from the comfort of toilet blocks and warm showers, far removed from the convenience of running water and miles away from the nearest neighbour. And so when I decided I wanted to challenge myself, it was always – in some form or another – going to involve a tent.

And so it was that I found myself in

the cold grip of a late and rainy autumn evening, heading out to a small hillock called Corrachadh Mòr on Scotland's Ardnamurchan Peninsula. Being little more than a bump, it's not a peak that many would earmark for attention – indeed I hadn't ever bothered to visit it before that night. But now I was on a mission, a challenge, to sleep at all the extreme points of mainland Britain. And this small undulation, sitting next to Atlantic Ocean, is the westernmost point on mainland Britain.

When wild camping it's important to stick to the fundamental "rules" of the pastime, of which the main one is to arrive late and leave early. And so, dutifully, it was a little after 11pm when I set out next to the roaring sea, whose waves were being whipped into a frenzy by the howling gale. I knew it was only a short distance – a little under a couple of kilometres, but in these conditions it felt very far indeed.

Guided by the light from my headtorch I squelched across the boggy ground and vaulted over several small streams that were gushing fast with the added volume of water. Interspersed between the grassy

tussocks were patches of mud and thickets of long straw-like reeds. Despite the damp I was relieved to note that the ground was soft – considering it would soon be my mattress it would mean a better night's sleep. I followed the coastline as best I could, tracing the hoof-prints of sheep who had evidently made the same passage before me.

Minutes later I passed the ruin of an old cottage. Though long since abandoned to the elements, small communities did live around here as early as the 700s and records show battles taking place here at least as far back as that as well. Closer to the present day, the remains of a Viking burial ship were discovered here too.

A short burst of ascent to climb the 36m summit and I had arrived at my destination, marked by a small collection of stones. As I erected my tent on the little high point just in front of the cairn, I imagined the sea full of ornate, wooden Viking ships being tossed on the frothing waves. In my imagination the lighthouse beam coming from Ardnamurchan Lighthouse now replaced the flame of a beacon that our ancestors would ☞





Ben Nevis (Highest Point). A camp here is not for the faint-hearted. With good weather the exception rather than the rule you have to watch the mountain weather forecast meticulously, be confident in navigation with a map and compass (and be able to take a bearing on the summit) – the pay off? Being the highest soul in Britain just for one night.



***“MOMENTS LIKE THIS MAKE SLEEPING WILD WORTH FORGOING THE COMFORTS OF A SITE”***

have erected to warn of land, the storm raging against it in an attempt to beat it out as soldiers battled to keep it alight. Who knows, maybe ancient families had huddled in the same spot I did now, seeking shelter from the elements. I climbed inside the tent and snuggled into my sleeping bag, lost to my dreams of warriors landing in storms, and it wasn't long before sleep found me easily.

It was silence that woke me hours later. The continuous flap of my tent porch, the whistle of the gusts tearing through my guylines, had stopped. Instead a stillness stirred me from my sleep. I opened my eyes to see the walls of my tent glowing almost red in the warmth of morning light.

Whenever I wild camp and wake up

in a location I have never before visited, I always savour what I call my “reveal moment”, the first time I open my tent flap and spy, often with a true sense of awe, the beautiful surrounds in which I have managed to make my bedroom for the night.

Spurred on by the signs of a calm day, I eagerly wriggled out of my sleeping bag and crawled towards the zip. Ceremoniously I grasped the pull in my hand and with a deep breath tugged it open. In front of me the lighthouse shone brightly in the sunlight, its white stripes turned almost amber in the dawn glow. I stepped outside onto the carpet of grass at my feet and spun around to face the interior.

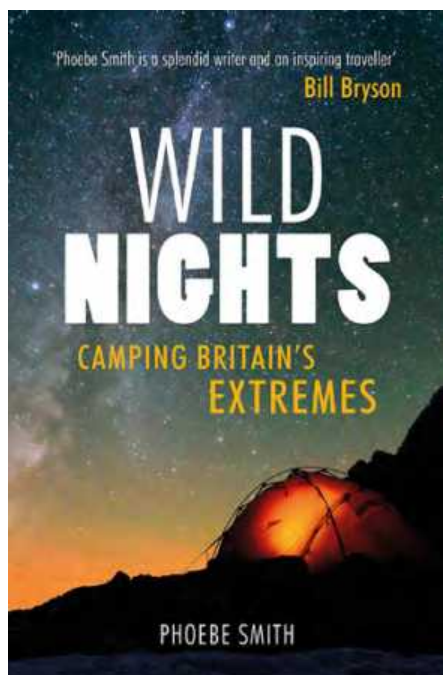
Mountains loomed on the horizon like giant molars belonging to a mythical beast, the sunlight cracking and splitting into pieces as it rose over them. Another mound of hulking rock rose up to my right. This part of the peninsula is what remains of a giant volcanic complex and the land folds and spreads as though lava was just spilling into the sea and cooling to form land. Across the waves, what I thought in the dark had been lamps on big sailing vessels actually turned out to be more lighthouses on the opposite island of Mull.

The spectacular combination of coast and mountain met here in such sweet succession, it was hard to believe that I had the good fortune to be able to spend the night surrounded by it – and all without paying a penny. It's moments like this that, like all the other extremes camps I'd done before and would continue to do afterwards, make sleeping wild worth forgoing all the creature comforts of a campsite. Despite the coolness of an early morning breeze, I felt warmth from this wild landscape. \*

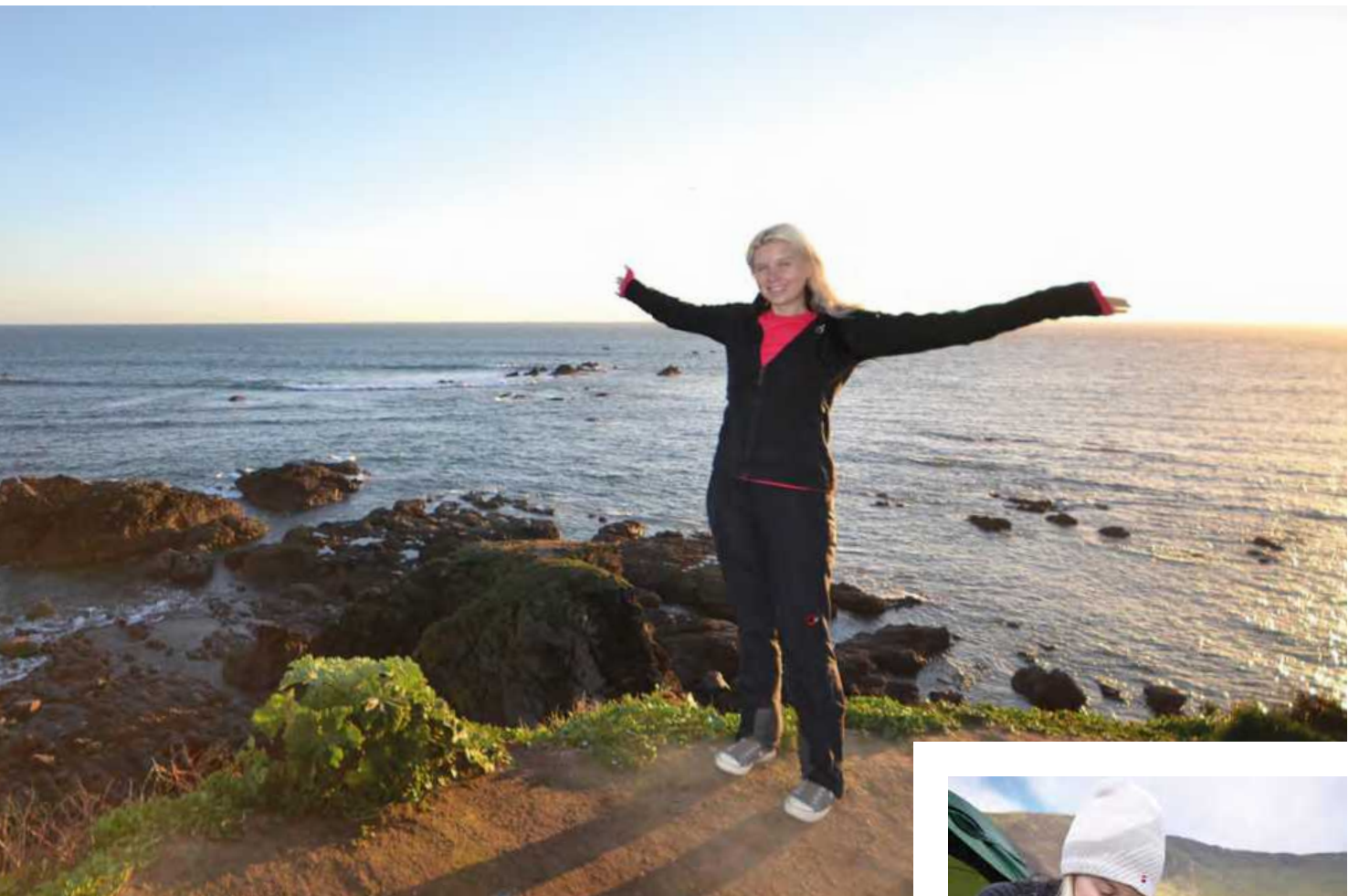
**Left** Phoebe Smith is author of *Wild Nights: Camping Britain's Extremes* (Summersdale, £10) out now.



Lizard Point (South). Ask most people where our most southern extremity is and most would instinctively say Land's End, but – as with John O'Groats – it's a case of mistaken identity. The true southerly outpost is Lizard Point, a rocky slither of land that reaches out into the Channel. A dramatic setting for a wild sleep.







Firing up the Jetboil for a brew



Whitendale Hanging Stones. Perhaps the most contested point in Britain (the town of Haltwhistle and a handful of others also lay claim to the title), this is actually found deep in Lancashire's Forest of Bowland next to the cluster of rocks called Whitendale Hanging Stones. It feels wonderfully cut off from the whole world – often thick with mist with only the cries of grouse as company. The wildest of wild camp spots.



# *The Good Shepherd of the Berwyn*

**Andrew Galloway takes a mystical journey through the North Wales countryside and enjoys a spot of wild camping under the stars.**







Bee on... Green Alkanet (but they're blue!)

The word spiritual is bandied about rather willy-nilly these days. Whereas traditional religions are mostly in decline in the UK, there is an unending stream of well-meant new-age psycho-babble from D-list celebrities promising to bring about “well-being” or to bring us closer to some form of enlightenment. But for me, the word spiritual is firmly rooted in place, be that an 800-year-old Norman cathedral built from the very bedrock upon which it stands, or as in the case of Pistyll Rhaeadr, a location where the natural elements of landscape, flora and fauna have been woven together over thousands, even millions of years, to create something greater than the sum of the separate parts, something more than mere atoms and molecules displaced in time.

In geological terms a Silurian dolerite sill of hard igneous rock has remained prominent whilst the Ordovician shales below and Carboniferous limestones above have been gradually been withered away by wind, water and ice so that the Afon Disgynfa now 240ft into Dyffryn Tanat and in doing so changes its name to Afon Rhaeadr and becomes the highest waterfall in England and Wales. But that is just the physics of it. Sitting by the plunge pool early on a still, misty morning, as the goldfinches, stonechats and willow warblers flitted from stone to branch to stone, I felt myself in the midst of a subtle liminal zone where the manteaux betwixt the physical and spiritual was acutely thin. I could almost see the nymphs and dryads playing and bathing in the sweet, peat-red waters.

Heralded by the sylvan woodwind of a cuckoo I set off as the morning mist gradually gave way to the bright buttercup meadows of sunlight, heading in a south-easterly direction away from the falls towards Llanrhaeadr-ym-Mochnant. As I approached the farmstead at Gwern-feifod, the cinder-track narrowed, with wire fences close on either side; ahead a chained, steel-framed gate and between myself and the gate a young lamb, its knees positively trembling, separated from its absentee mother who was somewhere in the meadow beyond carelessly chewing the cud. As I approached the gate the skittish lamb bolted behind me, bleating loudly. I unchained the gate, passed through and left it ajar by about four feet. The lamb eyed the expectant gap and the meadow beyond longingly and me, a potential predator, suspiciously. “Come on”, I said in my best one-man-and-his-dog voice. I took a step backwards, the lamb a tentative step forwards. Me, another step backwards, the lamb edging forward again and then, jack-flash quick, made a dash for it, leaping 3ft into the air with a kick of its hind legs ☺





Cadair Berwyn



Woodland Ogre



Crossroads in the centre of Llanarmon Dyffryn Ceiriog



The Wayfarer remembered

and a loud bleat, off to find its delinquent mother. I quickly closed and chained the gate, my animal husbandry credentials firmly intact.

Above Gwern-feifod the vegetation turned to plantation coniferous forest and I sat for a while in the sunshine watching a lone buzzard soaring upon the thermals above the tall Sitka Spruce, before descending into Cwm Maen Gwynedd. At the farm buildings of Waen an elderly lady was tending to her handling baskets. I wished her good day in broken Welsh and asked if she might fill my water bottle for me. Handing back the duly filled vessel she asked me where I was heading. I pointed to the ridge to the north and said I was planning to spend the night at Llyn Lluncaws, but that I wasn't expecting to find any cheese up there. She laughed (the Welsh for cheese being 'caws'). She recalled how as a young girl her grandfather had told her that a giant had lived among the Berwyn Mountains and how he had rolled a great cheese down from Moel Sych which had then melted in the sun and had become the lake of Llyn Lluncaws.

From the cairn at Mynydd Tarw I headed towards the crags at Cerrig Geneugiad and was shocked to hear the cries of a woman in distress. I rounded the edge of the crags to discover the appeal for help was from a lamb and its mother mired shoulders deep in a rather nasty and smelly bog, the mother frantically groping for purchase at the solid earth with her front feet, but to no avail. For the second time that day I played the good shepherd as I hauled out first the mother, then the lamb by the scruff of its neck, the fetid bog having held both fast with considerable suction. With a cautious bleat of appreciation, the ewe and her lamb headed off into the heather, half caked in thick peaty muck.

I followed the undulating ridge over Foel Wen and onto the Berwyn ridge proper as the sun began

to sink lower in the sky ahead of me, casting great shadows across the breadth of the basin-shaped valleys below. In the company of a muster of crows circling the cwm in the golden light of evening I descending from the ridge to Llyn Lluncaws to make camp. Having erected my tarpaulin, I sat in the perfect stillness of the twilight watching as perch and tench broke the mill-pool surface to catch the abundance of caddis flies that skittered across the meniscus from the heather garlanded banks. Eventually I snuggled down in my sleeping bag and fell asleep watching the Plough rotate anti-clockwise around Polaris.

About 3am the first round raindrops landed with a resounding plop on my face. I shuffled under my tarpaulin for shelter as the heavens opened. By 7am a thick mist also had descended upon Llyn Lluncaws and I decided the best thing was to up-sticks and head for the café at Pistyll Rhaeadr. First however, I wanted to visit the stone circle on Rhos-beddau and concluded that even in poor conditions the best approach was via Moel Sych and a steep climb out of the cwm. As I followed the path above Craig y Llyn the updraft of the easterly wind almost lifted me off my feet and as soon as I could I cut across west to the rather pathetic pile of stones that marked the summit. The wind was biting, such a wind often referred to locally as "the wind of the feet of the dead" and I was reminded how hypothermia can be a danger on British hills even during summer months. I hastily followed the wire fence west to the grassy knoll at Ceulan Myhery then south onto Rhos-beddau wishing to quickly lose height and get out of the blanket grey mist, ice-cold wind and driving rain. But the mist did not clear and as I lost more and more height I became more and more disorientated, trying to follow a hand-held compass bearing in poor visibility and featureless



moorland. Convinced that I had made some terrible navigational error my mind began to play tricks on me. The stories and superstitions of the countryside came back vividly. From the Mabinogion I recalled the Arthurian tale of Culhwch and Olwen which tells of Gwyn ap Nudd, Lord of the Underworld who hunts at night with hounds from the devil's own pack searching for souls of the dead. What better place for him to look than Rhos-beddau, "the moor of graves". And still the mist clung to the hypothermic moorland like skin and the rain fell like coffin nails and the wind blew like the feet of the dead.

I was truly relieved when a tightly packed circle of stones appeared out of the mist. By now I was saturated. It was not a day for epic photography, and through lulls in the wind I was convinced I could hear the distant baying of hounds so I quickly made haste to the sheepfolds at Rhyd y Cwrlid and followed the Afon Disgynfa back to the ancient oak woodland above Tan-y-Pistyll, ever mindful that the playful, ebullient waters, cascading over limestone boulders and swirling in faerie pools, quite suddenly drop 240ft into the valley floor.

At the Tan-y-Pistyll café I ordered a large mug of steaming tea, began to dry out and pondered my options for accommodation for the night. I decided a little luxury was called for so checked into the West Arms in Llanarmon Dyffryn Ceiriog. I was greeted on this miserable, mizzle-soaked afternoon by a roaring log fire set within a 17th Century Inglenook fireplace and a cream tea to-die-for. I retired that evening to a king-size bed of exceptional comfort and slept in the arms of Morpheus. \*



Looking down on Llyn Lluncaws from Cadair Berwyn



Pistyll Rhaeadr



Hide and Sheep! at Gardden Fawr



Llanarmon Dyffryn Ceiriog



Cadair Berwyn





# HOLM SWEET HOLM

**A former World War Two airfield makes for a pretty amazing campsite in the New Forest, says Nick Harding**

A branch of the Camping and Caravanning Club? OK, I promise no more silly puns... Camping in the Forest (in fact, a joint initiative with the Forestry Commission) is a network of 16 campsites offering what is says on the bark (I'm warning you - Ed) – with three suitably located sites across Scotland and one in Wales, and the rest in England.

In fact, 10 Camping in the Forest sites are right here in the New Forest. Six of these – Denny Wood, Longbeech, Setthorns, Aldridge Hill and Matley Wood – are “no facilities”, while another (Ocknell) offers toilets only.

Here at Holmsley, though, you get some pretty extensive toilet

and shower facilities, but pitch prices are just a bit less than its equally well provided sister sites (at Hollands Wood, Ashurst and Roundhill).

At Holmsley alone you get, depending on where you read it, anything between 600 and 700 pitches (the staff strike a happy medium with their 650). The setting is what was originally a WW2 airfield – and it's since proved itself the perfect venue for camping, not least because (of course) everything is pretty level.

If you like things more formal, this might not be the site for you. Alternatively, if you want to gather together as a small group (without offending the neighbours, of course) this is ideal.

It's very much all about families here, but without the razzmatazz of on-site bars and shows. You definitely make your own live entertainment. Walks and bike rides are just the beginning. There are lots of off-roading opportunities, too.

Venture out of the Forest and you can easily get to the south coast. Head to Mudeford Quay at Christchurch, for instance, and – if you don't fancy the crabbing – you can get the boat to Mudeford Sandbank and Hengistbury Head (unspoilt beaches, colourful beach huts etc).

If you want to find out more about the New Forest, put the visitor centre at Lyndhurst on your bucket list. Don't forget, also, this is one of 15 National Parks across the UK. \*







# HOLMSLEY CAMPING IN THE FOREST SITE

Forest Road, Thorney Hill, Bransgore, Christchurch, Hampshire BH23 7EQ | 01425 674502 | [www.campingintheforest.co.uk](http://www.campingintheforest.co.uk)

There's a massive 650 pitches here, 132 of which can offer mains electric. In July-August, they reckon on hosting as many as 400 tents. One big happy family? Why not. There's certainly lots of space, so you don't really have to feel crammed in.

It's quite some oasis of tent camping, though, with typical families coming down from London, Kent and the Midlands.

You don't have to join the Camping and Caravanning Club to camp here, either. But it helps – you'll get 15 per cent off your pitch fees, as well as a Family Deals (two adults, two children, or one adult, three children) for starters.

Here at Holmsley, you do seem to get a bit more in terms of overall facilities. Reception is also home to an extensive shop, selling a range of food

as well as fresh coffee. And they say they're keeping their fingers crossed for a drinks licence next season.

Not exactly state-of-the-art (should we expect them to be?) but there are plenty of toilet and (push-button) shower facilities and – most importantly – hygiene is paramount.

Of course, any size tent can be accommodated, too – but it's always worth a phone call ahead if you're jumbo size or beyond. Just ask about XL pitches. You can make an online booking any day of the year.

In keeping with an avowed "green policy", little is done to the ground itself (although the ex-airfield roadways are still in place). The ground itself can be hard, though.

Do I need to say you're surrounded by trees? You might just see red kites (the birds) flying above them, too.

**Open** March-November

**Cost** From £15 (two adults).

Backpackers/cycle-campers from £7

**Electric hook-up** Yes

**Children welcome** Yes

## NEARBY

Bransgore (two miles)

Burley (three)

New Milton (six)

Christchurch (seven)

Lymington (11)

Bournemouth (14)

Southampton (19)



## DID YOU KNOW?

Some 3,000 ponies freely roam around the New Forest (they are owned by the New Forest Commoners). They're all pure New Forest breeds. Please drive carefully. It's a case of look but don't touch, too – and don't feed them, either.

## EATING OUT

The Three Tuns at Bransgore is a pretty, thatched 17th Century inn, which currently enjoys an excellent reputation for its food. Just 30 seconds away from "The Tuns" is The Crown. Or you can order a delivery from the Chinese in Christchurch. Don't forget, also, the site has its own take-away operation in the busy times.

## NEED TO DO

You're straight out of the gate and straight into the Forest. But, if you want a good way of getting your bearings, ask at reception about the New Forest Tour Bus. The hop on/off service takes in Lyndhurst, Brockenhurst, Lymington, Beaulieu and the Exbury Gardens and Steam Railway.

Christchurch is the nearest town, boasting its own quay at the confluence of two rivers, plus two castles and – arguably the highlight – the Priory Church. It all merges into Bournemouth heading west along the south coast.

From the Georgian coastal town of Lymington, why not catch the ferry and have a day out on the Isle of Wight?

New Forest Activities at Beaulieu (also home to the world famous motor museum) is an ideal way to get involved in anything from cycling to canoeing or kayaking to combat games and more.

Ringwood Brewery – home of Old Thumper, Boondoggle and more – hosts conducted tours.

Walking and cycling abound, with a good variety of trails including the Solent Way, Avon Valley Path and The Castleman Trail. The Forest counts at least 100 miles of waymarked cycleways, too.

## NEED TO KNOW

[www.thenewforest.co.uk](http://www.thenewforest.co.uk)





# SITES WITH A

Steve Goodier seeks out the campsites with the best views in arguably England's

A few years ago there was a television series that set out to find the Best View in Britain. I don't think it came as a great surprise to many viewers that the competition was won by a view in the Lake District. Officially our "best view" is the one down Wastwater towards Wasdale Head taking in the peaks of Great Gable, Kirk Fell and Lingmel – it's actually the scene depicted on the National Park Badge. This remote and wild dale on the Western side of Lakeland has always been a favourite of climbers, walkers and connoisseurs of awesome scenery.

But then Lakeland has so much to offer in the way of breathtaking views that it is no wonder that for hundreds of years visitors have been simply blown away by what they see there.

This area provides us with the perfect combination of towering fells, beautiful trees, deep cut valleys and stunning lakes. And what makes it even more unique is that the scene before you changes by the moment as clouds move

**Pictures - clockwise from above:**  
Awesome Newlands

View down Deepdale from the head

Sailing on Coniston

Views of Loweswater

across the sky and the weather takes a different mood. Day by day the same scene can appear different and if you have only ever visited the Lake District in the summer time you should make a real effort to come and take in your favourite views in spring, autumn or winter when you will see something totally different and the crowds will be smaller too.

About 10 years ago I was commissioned to produce an article on the pastime of "Lakeland view bagging" and was fairly sceptical that it would be a bit of an awkward one to write. I was so very wrong and the subject matter turned out to be vast.

It was such a simple hobby to be involved in but it got you out and about in some of the best scenery Lakeland had to offer.

All you needed was a car and the interest to search out potential good viewpoints; a bit of weather watching helps, and if you want real luxury, a flask is a bonus but there are plenty of cafes and pubs if you want to be lazy.

Oh, don't forget a camera - that

is pretty essential.

View bagging is nothing new either. Once I started to look into it I realised it had been around for a few centuries. When the Jesuit Priest Father Thomas West published what was effectively the first tourist guide book to the Lakes in 1778 he probably had no idea what he was starting.

His *Guide To The Lakes* encouraged visitors and artists to visit one of the viewing stations he listed (there were quite a few) and take in the view from there. This led to an increase in interest in what became known as "the picturesque" and helped to bolster the romantic image of Lakeland which attracted a wealth of artists, poets and writers.

West encouraged his readers to view the scenes he took them to through a Claude Glass or Black Mirror. Basically you turned your back on the scene you were viewing and observed it in the Claude Glass held in front of your eyes. The mirror was tinted and had the effect of abstracting the subject reflected in it from its

**Map (right)** Contains Ordnance Survey data © Crown copyright and database right 2015.





## POINTS OF VIEW

### SOME GREAT LAKELAND VIEWS TO SEEK OUT

Tarn Hows from the National Trust car park

Wastwater, Wasdale and the Screes from the junction of the Gosforth and Nether Wasdale Road.

Borrowdale from either the summit of Latrigg or from Friars Crag near Keswick

Blencathra from Castlerigg Stone Circle

Dovedale from the Brotherswater Hotel near the foot of the Kirkstone Pass

Coledale and Skiddaw from near the campsite (try staying on it) in Braithwaite

The head of Borrowdale from the end of the road in Seathwaite.



## most scenic region.

surroundings. The colour and tonal range of the view were simplified and for many years no respectable Lakeland visitor would be seen without one.

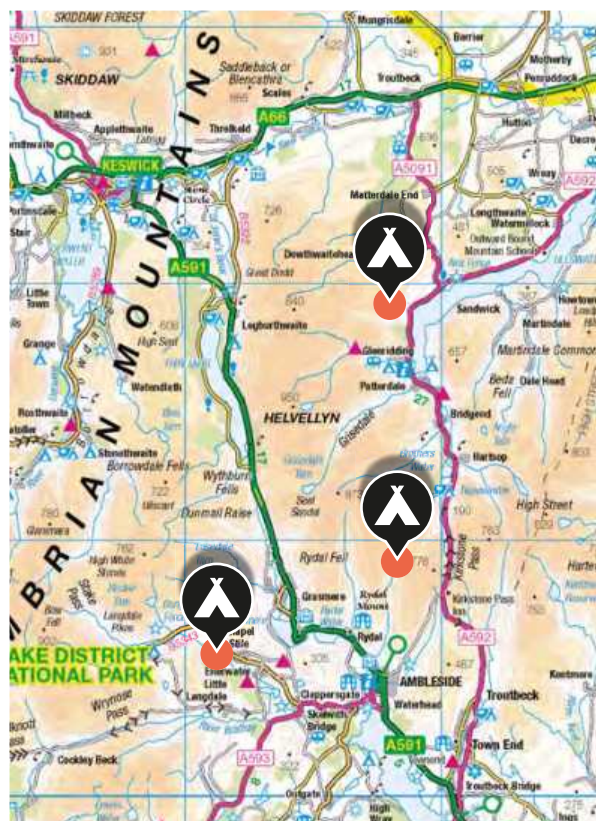
Today we see the same scenes these early visitors did but instead of the Claude Glass we use our eyes or maybe field glasses and although many are inspired to still paint what they see, most are content to photograph it.

What this means to you as a camper is that you have a real Utopia awaiting you if you holiday in Lakeland, but the real plus is that many of the sites you can pitch on have awesome views of their own. You will have to carefully choose your site and maybe do a bit of research as not all those you may find have views and many are sheltered by trees which can obscure the view. However, there are plenty of lakeside sites and numerous elevated ones that give you serious viewing potential and make superb places to bring the family to.

And of course you are always spoilt for choice when camping in

the Lake District, with a vast array of sites available, from the very basic to the quite luxurious. Some are gloriously remote and involve carrying your gear over bridges to hidden fields, while others have electric hook-ups and offer all mod cons and bags of facilities. But that's the beauty of Lakeland – it is all things to all people and most campers who come here will have their own favourite site that they return to year after year. Many came with their parents as children and now bring their own kids back to experience the region for themselves.

Although Lakeland is seen often as the preserve of the fell walker, mountain biker and water sport enthusiast, I think those who just appreciate the glorious views will always flock here because it's not just from the top of the mountains that you will get an awesome panorama – often the view from below or from slightly about the valley floor is even more wonderful, and as a camper you are going to be in just the right place to enjoy it to the full. ☺





## SIDE FARM CAMPSITE

Patterdale, Ullswater, Near Penrith, Cumbria CA11 0NL | 01768 482337

[www.campincumbria.com/side\\_farm-camping\\_Patterdale.html](http://www.campincumbria.com/side_farm-camping_Patterdale.html)

The most Alpine looking lake in the Lake District is Ullswater, which runs for about nine beautiful miles between Pooley Bridge and Patterdale and is surrounded by the most incredible ranges of mountains including the mighty Helvellyn which rises to 3,116ft/950m and is probably the most climbed mountain in the Lakes, if not England. It is rare when a day passes and someone (and usually quite a few) reach the top.

Ullswater is simply breathtaking and if you want a site to camp on where you can gaze out over it and take in both the lake and the surrounding fells, may we suggest putting your tent up on Side Farm?

The site is set down a rough and rugged farm track some distance from the farm where you check in. It is a low gear job to drive to the site entrance and there a lot of potholes so you need to be careful, but once you turn in to the site you will be simply gobsmacked. Set in an elevated position about Ullswater and over the lake from Glenridding and Patterdale, Side Farm will have you wanting to linger outside your tent until well after dark to drink in that awesome view. This is a basic farm site that takes only tents and very small campervans (but no caravans) and there are no electric hook-ups. The site is set on a sloping hillside with trees below it. There is quite a lot of rough ground so do

bring along steel pegs in case you need them. It can get very busy in the summer and the flatter pitches are located at the field top with the more sloping ones further down, although there are some flat ones on grassy mounds near the field bottom. The best views are from the top but, if it is peak season, aim to arrive early on a Friday to avoid having to camp on a slope. Check in is at the farm itself some distance from the site and here you will also find a nice café. Side Farm is a remote site and that is one of the attractions. You can walk into the hills right off the camping field with the ever popular Place Fell rising to the rear of the camping field.

On site you will find a toilet and shower block in a stone building near the entrance. There are not many toilets and showers so you may have wait for a wash if the site is busy but to be honest, the facilities are clean and tidy and it is a small price to pay for such a wonderful place. There is also a small laundry which is useful. The site is very popular with walkers, mountain bikers and canoeists but if you just want somewhere to come and drink in an awesome Lakeland view, then it is almost certainly for you too. If you love remote farm sites in awesome surroundings then make sure you give Side Farm a visit – it is easy to see why it is a firm favourite of many Lake District lovers.

### WORTH KNOWING

THERE ARE MORE SLOPING PITCHES THAN FLAT ONES SO AIM TO ARRIVE EARLY ON A FRIDAY AT BUSY TIMES OF THE YEAR TO MAKE SURE YOU GET ONE OF THE FLATTER ONES.







## GILL HEAD FARM CARAVAN AND CAMPING PARK

Troutbeck, Penrith, Cumbria CA11 0ST | 017687 79652 | [www.gillheadfarm.co.uk](http://www.gillheadfarm.co.uk)

The scenery around the northern Lake District area is dominated by Siddaw (3,054ft/931m), the fourth highest mountain in England, and by the awesome looking Blencathra ("the Mountaineers Mountain") which rises to 2,848ft/868m.

Both of these massifs are very photogenic and they fill the scenery north of the A66.

For a great place to get a view of Blencathra, the Helvellyn Range and the North Western Fells above Keswick you could do far worse than pitch your tent at Gill Head Farm Caravan and Camping Park. This site is to be found between Penrith and Keswick just south of the A66 road in the hamlet of Troutbeck. Gill Head is a working hill farm set in stunning surroundings and hidden away down lovely back lanes in wild country. The approach to the site is down a long descending farm access drive and through the farmyard. Check-in is at reception, which is located at the farmhouse and here you will find a

shop selling basics too.

From reception the site is split into two halves. To the right of reception there is a static caravan area and an area where seasonal tourers are located. If you go left from reception you head up to two fields that are for caravans, campervans and tents. The first turning on the right takes you onto the caravan field which has a good circular access track around it and is well screened and sheltered by trees. There is a central grass area here with play equipment for children and tents are allowed to pitch here. Campers will get great views of the upper reaches of Bannerdale Crag and Blencathra above the trees. There is a small toilet block and a common room area on one side of the field. There are electric hook-ups on all pitches but they are mostly reserved for the caravans although tents can use them if they are available. The main toilet block is located at the entrance to this

field and here you will find modern toilets and showers, which are spacious and kept clean and tidy. There is also a laundry here too. The next field (beyond a small wood) is a grass field and is mainly for tents although some caravans use it too. It is open and elevated and it is from here that you will get the very best views of the Northern Fells of the Lake District. Through a gate and fence there is an overflow field that is open during very busy times. There are a few electric hook-ups available on the camping field and, as the site gets very busy during the summer season, it would be best to book these in advance if you require one. The site has a few camping pods too.

This is a well run site that is pleasantly landscaped and in a great location for touring the North of Cumbria and the Lake District as a whole, but what will keep you coming back here time and again is the awesome views of the fells you get while you sit outside your tent. ☺

### WORTH KNOWING

THERE CAN BE SOME ROAD NOISE OCCASIONALLY FROM THE A66 WHICH RUNS BELOW YOU, BUT IT DEPENDS ON WHICH WAY THE WIND IS BLOWING AND IT IS NEVER REALLY VERY BAD.





## BAYSBROWN FARM FAMILY CAMPSITE

Great Langdale, Ambleside, Cumbria LA22 9JZ | 015394 37150 | [www.baysbrownfarmcampsite.co.uk](http://www.baysbrownfarmcampsite.co.uk)

Baysbrown is exactly what it claims to be – a site that caters for families and couples. The site is on an 800-acre working farm and comprises of three large fields with awesome views down the valley of Great Langdale and of the surrounding mountains. To sit outside a tent here with a mug of coffee is a simply breathtaking experience. The site caters for campers mainly and the access is too tight for caravans. Small campervans are welcome but nothing larger.

The head of the wonderful Great Langdale Valley seems to simply swallow up your tent in a breathtaking landscape that you will never get fed up looking at. Lake District giants such as Crinkle Crag, Bowfell and the awesome Langdale Pikes tower all around you and Scafell Pike, England's highest mountain, can be climbed from the head of Great Langdale although it can't really be seen from the area. There are no designated pitches and you can simply camp where you like

### WORTH KNOWING

BAYSBROWN DOES NOT TAKE BOOKINGS SO YOU JUST HAVE TO TURN UP AND SELECT A PITCH. THERE ARE ALSO NO ELECTRIC HOOK-UPS.

on the spacious fields. It can be a bit rough in places but nothing that should worry seasoned campers. It may be worth carrying some steel pegs in case you end up camped on a very hard area.

There are no electric hook-ups and the field is fairly flat with a few minor slopes.

You are camping quite literally right next to the farm and there is a real rural feel about coming here with lots of sheep around and even chickens making a fuss amongst the tents. The site operates on a "first come, first served" basis so you can't book and once it is full then that is that. And it often gets full on summer weekends as the area is very popular. Even the approach road is delightful. You leave the main Great Langdale Valley road at the little village of Chapel Stile and drive down a narrow and winding track towards the farm – the site is situated towards the end of this track and well away from the road so there is no noise from passing cars and you feel as though

you have arrived in the middle of nowhere once you have pitched. The site is well run and runs a strict policy on noise (which won't be tolerated) and open fires (not allowed at all). This gives for peaceful and disturbance free camping and makes Baysbrown well worth a visit if you are looking for a campsite for peace and quiet in the busy regions of Great Langdale. There are solar powered showers and a toilet block near the farm and these are clean and serviceable. They are basic but good enough for any length of stay. One point to bear in mind is that if you camp in one of the remoter areas of the camping fields you will have a long trek to the toilets and this can be a nuisance at night. The nearby village of Chapel Stile has a pub, a café and a shop so you are well catered for in that respect too.

Overall, Baysbrown Farm Family Campsite is a great place to come and stay for a laid back Lake District break and if its views you are after... look no further! ✽



# Law

## OF THE CAMPSITE

**Gillian Law finally gives wild camping a go – and discovers how much she loves campsites**



**S**o – I’ve finally done it! Wild camping, that is. Kind of.

My sister and my friends are all starting to leave me behind on the campsite while they go off camping on hill tops and in forests. They just throw up their tent wherever takes their fancy, and enjoy the freedom of it all.

It helps that we live in Scotland, where you can do that sort of thing legally, but I’m aware people do it, subtly and tidily, all over the place.

Anyway, inevitably, there’s been pressure on me to try this. And so last weekend three of us packed up our bikes and rode off into the countryside. The plan was to break me in gently with a sort of half-way house: a wild camping campsite, if that’s not too much of an oxymoron.

I was super nervous on the way out there. I was anticipating mud, and mess, and fretting about things like how I would wash my hands to put my contact lenses in the next morning. I knew there was water, but that you couldn’t drink it without boiling it, and that there was a compost loo. Hmm. I went equipped with more wet wipes than the average new mother takes with her baby.

We got there, and it was actually a lot less daunting than I had thought. We had a little clearing in the wood to ourselves, with some wooden benches around a fire

pit. I was allowed to choose my pitch first, as the newbie.

My friend and I had one-person tents, and my sister was trying out her new bivvy bag, so there was much nosying at one another’s new gear and giggling over the idea of sleeping in a big plastic sack. Spiders! Crawly things! Ewww.

We made dinner on stoves, and relaxed. Until it started to get dark and we failed to light the fire – we had to get the non-campsite-campsite-man to come and do it, which was a bit pathetic, and a good job we weren’t on a hill top.

Then it got really dark. Away from the fire, you could see absolutely nothing. And I needed the loo. And... look, I do lots of cycle touring, I’m not a stranger to peeing behind a bush (can I say that, ed?). But in the pitch black, with no ideas what monsters were behind me? I was not a very happy camper.

Likewise, in the night – I loved being able to see the stars, but I did long for just a wee bit of light pollution! I’m a big fearty, it turns out.

It’s very noisy, the empty countryside, too! There were cows mooing half the night, and a cockerel started to crow... at 12.13am. If I could have seen it through the darkness I’d have given it a very stern look.

Come the morning, and one look at the

compost loo, I was well and truly sure of this fact: I like campsites. I love campsites! I love walking to the toilet blocks, and meeting people as I brush my teeth. Watching people herding children while wearing dressing gowns and carrying giant toiletry bags to the showers. Just being around people doing their holiday thing makes me smile.

And one of my favourite things is taking the dishes to the sinks and washing up, half outdoors, feeling cheerful after dinner. Looking at other people’s cooking stuff and wondering what they had – and having a wee bit of a chat as we each do our own dishes.

You don’t do dishes, really, when you wild camp, it turns out. You give everything a bit of a wipe and that’s it. It’s really not the same at all!

So it’s just as well, really. I don’t want to have to change the name of this column to Law of the Forest – in fact, that sounds like something different altogether! So Law of the Campsite it will remain, and I’ll be extra happy next time I check in at a nice clean reception desk, next to shelves with tins of beans and packets of tent pegs. I can’t wait to be given a nice wee hand drawn map showing my pitch, and where all the amenities are.

If you hear anyone singing as she does her dishes, that just might be me. \*



STANLEY  
CLASSIC  
CAMP MUG

[www.burton-mccall.co.uk](http://www.burton-mccall.co.uk)

It might be more about keeping hot drinks warm than making sure your pint remains cool at this time of the year, but this 18oz/532ml double-walled insulation mug from the iconic workperson's brand, Stanley is a proper handful. The screwtop flip lid protects from unwanted bugs etc, too. The handle's also plastic, but the rest is stainless steel. Cheers to Christmas.

**Expect to pay** £17.99

GO TRAVEL SINGLE  
POWER BANK

[www.go-travelproducts.com](http://www.go-travelproducts.com)

Just don't run out of power at Christmas. Well, you know what it's like with all those electrical gifts. Here's the antidote. A 2000mAH emergency charger you can use for smartphones or any device with a small USB connection.

**Expect to pay** £14.99



# KITBAG

## Christmas Special

It's time for *Camping* to take the stress out of your Christmas shopping. Iain Duff and Nick Harding have come up with something for everyone, ranging from stocking fillers to big-money gifts.

## PARAMO BEANIE

[www.paramo.co.uk](http://www.paramo.co.uk)

The perfect present for facing up to those winter chills? How about this one-size Beanie from environmentally- and socially-conscious clothing manufacturer, Paramo? It's made from the British company's superior-performance Parameta G fabric with a Nikwax Stretch Fleece inner – excellent for wicking away moisture in a unique directional movement. Totally recyclable, colours are Black or Flame.

**Expect to pay** £18

STRIDE OUT  
FOOT OIL

[www.strideout-footoil.com](http://www.strideout-footoil.com)

A special blend of natural oils that effectively combats blisters when walking – and an ideal complement if you're thinking of giving socks or footwear for Christmas. Or just want a valuable little stocking filler. Smells nice, too.

**Expect to pay** £9.45



# Stocking Fillers



## WIGWAM TAOS SOCK

[www.wigwam.com](http://www.wigwam.com)

Socks for Christmas? It's a given, surely. Check out the stripes on these top performers from Wigwam. They combine merino wool with stretch nylon and spandex, with underfoot cushioning.

**Expect to pay** £20



## LIFEVENTURE THERMAL MUG

[www.lifeventure.co.uk](http://www.lifeventure.co.uk)

You can't go wrong with a thermal mug, either. In a vast choice of designs (16, high-gloss and matt), the Thermal Mug will keep drinks warm for up to four hours. It's made from stainless steel with lacquered finish, in a double-wall construction, with a top section where you can store a tea bag, sugar sachet etc.

**Expect to pay** £9.99

## MAMMUT AMBIENT LIGHT DRY BAG

[www.mammut.ch](http://www.mammut.ch)

Light up at Christmas? But, of course. This is more unique than most, though. Use it as a 30-litre waterproof stuff bag – it's also food safe – or, when things are getting a bit dim, attach it to a headlamp (Mammut also does them, of course) and, voila, instant diffused lighting.

**Expect to pay** £16



## GO TRAVEL FROGGIE

[www.go-travelproducts.com](http://www.go-travelproducts.com)

A folding, fleecy pillow in the form of a cuddly toy. Lots of uses. Fully machine washable. Everybody now, awwwww...

**Expect to pay** £9.99



## LIFEVENTURE TITANIUM FORK SPOON

[www.lifeventure.co.uk](http://www.lifeventure.co.uk)

Made from super-light and strong titanium, the Forkspoon weighs just 15g making it perfect for travel, walking or lightweight camping adventures.

**Expect to pay**



## LITTLELIFE DISNEY DAYSACK

[www.lifeventure.co.uk](http://www.lifeventure.co.uk)

Bring the magic of Disney to Christmas with LittleLife's range of daysacks featuring favourite characters like Mickey and Minnie as well as Tigger and Buzz Lightyear

It also has fully-adjustable shoulder straps, a secure chest strap and a detachable safety rein.

**Expect to pay** £24.99



## THERM-A-REST COMPRESSIBLE PILLOW

[www.thermarest.com](http://www.thermarest.com)

The Compressible Pillow has a soft, foam filling that packs small and expands big, with the XL size measuring a generous 42 x 67 cm.

**Expect to pay** £17- £30



## LIFESYSTEMS MICRO HEAD TORCH

[www.lifetimesystems.co.uk](http://www.lifetimesystems.co.uk)

A head torch is an essential for any outdoor adventure and this ultra-compact lamp weighs in at just 30g, making it ideal for fast and light adventures, with five different modes including night vision.

**Expect to pay** £14.99



## AQUAPAC PACKDIVIDER DRYSACKS

[www.aquapac.net](http://www.aquapac.net)

Use inside other bags to keep items separate, add waterproofing and prevent toiletry leaks spreading.

**Expect to pay** From from £9 to £13



## EDZ MERINO GLOVES

[www.edzlayering.com](http://www.edzlayering.com)

Designed to keep hands super cosy, despite being thin enough to be worn as liners under outer gloves. A seamless knitted construction, they're anti-bacterial, provide insulation and absorb moisture.

Available in a range of sizes and in black, green, blue and red.

**Expect to pay** £10



## PACKTOWL PERSONAL

[www.packtowl.com](http://www.packtowl.com)

Exceptionally soft and smooth, this versatile towel is available in a range of sizes, and is great for traveling and water sports as well as camping.

**Expect to pay** £9-£25



## E-CASE ESERIES

[www.cascadedesigns.com/ecase](http://www.cascadedesigns.com/ecase)

The eSeries range is available to fit a wide variety of today's phones and tablets, so you can talk, text and capture your moments safe in the knowledge that your device is safe from harm.

**Expect to pay** £18.00- £27.00

## HYDRO FLASK

[www.hydroflask.com](http://www.hydroflask.com)

The 21oz Hydro Flask keeps hot drinks steaming hot for six hours and cold drinks cold for 24 hours and comes in a rather fetching festive red.

**Expect to pay** £24



## EXTREMITIES ARID STRIPED BEANIE

[www.extremities.co.uk](http://www.extremities.co.uk)

This beanie combines a soft knitted hat with a waterproof and breathable membrane to keep you warm and dry in all conditions. Available in black, blue and red stripe and a junior size beanie is also available online.

**Expect to pay** £16



Under  
£50

## MSR POCKETROCKET STOVE

[www.msrgear.com](http://www.msrgear.com)

Claimed to be the world's most popular canister stove, the Pocket Rocket backpacking cooker is tiny, but performs impressively. With precision flame control and the Wind Clip shield for breezy conditions, it's a great gift for a lightweight camper.

**Expect to pay** £30.00



## FJALLRAVEN ZIP WALLET

[www.fjallraven.co.uk](http://www.fjallraven.co.uk)

Expecting money for Christmas? How about something to put it in? Fjallraven's Zip Wallet comes in the G-1000 fabric it uses for its high-performing clothing. There are compartments for cards and notes, plus a zipped coin section.

**Expect to pay**



## POWERMONKEY DISCOVERY PORTABLE CHARGER

[www.powertraveller.com](http://www.powertraveller.com)

The sleek Powermonkey for campers who find the remote locations where power is easily accessible. It is for 5v devices including smartphones, GPS trackers and games consoles.

**Expect to pay** £30



## COLEMAN GLOW-IN-THE-DARK SLEEPING BAG

[www.coleman.eu](http://www.coleman.eu)

A cosy kids' sleeping bag with a glow-in-the-dark graphic that provides a bit of bedtime fun for camping youngsters.

**Expect to pay** £29.99

## KOZI KIDZ SMIDIG GILET

[www.kozikidz.com](http://www.kozikidz.com)

Colourful and cosy, the Smidig Gilet is a mid-layer for winter walks or snowball fights. It's ultra packable too and comes with a carry bag for easy storage when not in use.

**Expect to pay** £35







## COLEMAN 45 CAN COLLAPSIBLE COOLER

[www.coleman.eu](http://www.coleman.eu)

A soft cooler that can house up to 40 cans but can be collapsed to be completely flat for storage. The rigid top contains four cup holders so it can even be used as a small table.  
**Expect to pay £29.99**

## VANGO MOON CHAIR

[www.vango.co.uk](http://www.vango.co.uk)

As well as its quirky shape, the Moon chair has comfortable padding, an extra spacious seat and sturdy steel construction. It's quick and easy to fold down into its oversized bag, making it simple to transport.  
**Expect to pay £35**



## GOAL ZERO ROCK OUT II

[www.goalzero.eu](http://www.goalzero.eu)

The portable speaker from Goal Zero has a built in battery with 20 hours runtime that can be fully recharged in two hours. The weatherproof case makes it ideal for the campsite, allowing you to control your music at the touch of a button whilst your phone is safely secured inside.  
**Expect to pay £49.99**



## PLATYPUS BIG ZIP LP

[www.platy.com](http://www.platy.com)

The Big Zip LP hydration system comes with an easy-to-clean wide-mouth opening and a low-profile design that fits the back panel of any pack.  
**Expect to pay £30 - £35**

## VANGO HARD ANODISED ADVENTURE COOK KIT

[www.vango.co.uk](http://www.vango.co.uk)

A lightweight but durable, non-stick cooking set that should last for many years. The frying pan, large pot and small pan all come packed in their own storage bag.  
**Expect to pay £30**







## COLEMAN CPX 6 DUO LANTERN

[www.coleman.eu](http://www.coleman.eu)

Two lanterns in one. Use it as one large lantern or clip off the two light panels and use them individually. Part of the Coleman CPX system meaning you can either operate with the battery cartridge and batteries or the rechargeable power cartridge (sold separately).

**Expect to pay** £49.99

## STANLEY MOUNTAIN COFFEE SYSTEM

[www.burton-mccall.co.uk](http://www.burton-mccall.co.uk)

Boil water in the stainless steel pot, brew your coffee with the integrated press, pack it in the leak-proof vacuum insulated thermos, and enjoy hours later when you're out on the trail. The vacuum insulated bottle keeps drinks hot for 24 hours and cold for 20 hours.

**Expect to pay** £44.99.



## VQ BLIGHTY

[www.myVQ.co.uk](http://www.myVQ.co.uk)

Blighty rules the airwaves with this portable and classy-looking DAB/FM radio. Available in red or grey, it will pick all the local digital and analogue radio stations on the campsite.

**Expect to pay** £39.99



## SNUGPAK STASHA

[www.snugpak.com](http://www.snugpak.com)

A shelter for wild campers that is so small and lightweight that it can be easily stashed away in a backpack or even in the pocket of your cargo pants. This is a simple, effective piece of kit that can be used as an improvised bivvy or an impromptu emergency shelter when out in the wild.

**Expect to pay** £39.95



## THULE ATMOS X4

[www.thule.com](http://www.thule.com)

Someone you know getting a new iPhone 6 for Christmas? Then they'll need something like this robust case to keep it safe when they're in the great outdoors. It's drop-tested to two metres and has a screen guard that will protect the phone against impact, scratches, glare and fingerprints.

**Expect to pay** £49.99







## THERMAREST TREO CHAIR

[www.thermarest.com](http://www.thermarest.com)

The award-winning Treo Chair delivers big chair comfort in a small package. It packs entirely into its own tripod base, making it as easy to bring along as it is to relax in.

**Expect to pay** £85.00

## VANGO STARWALKER SLEEPING BAG

[www.vango.com](http://www.vango.com)

The wearable sleeping bag lets you stay cosy while still having freedom of movement when needed, simply by unzipping at the legs and shoulders. There's also a junior version available.

**Expect to pay** £50

## CAMPINGAZ PARTY GRILL

[www.campingaz.com](http://www.campingaz.com)

It's an old favourite but the Party Grill is still popular for a reason. Ideal for camping trips but just as useful for a picnic, this compact piece of kit lets you grill or cook over an open flame. And look out for updated versions next year!

**Expect to pay** £59.99



## RUMPL

[www.eskimoagency.com](http://www.eskimoagency.com)

A cool blanket to keep you warm? Why not? Cuddle up under a Rumpl – there's a choice of two sizes Throw and Twin. Both are in 200D Ripstop nylon with waterproof finish and synthetic down insulation.

**Expect to pay** £79.99 (Throw)/£99.99 (Twin)





Under  
£100



## FJALLRAVEN OVIK KNIT SCARF

[www.fjallraven.co.uk](http://www.fjallraven.co.uk)

A cosy winter scarf made from super-soft and warm wool. The Ovik has a timeless but stylish Scandinavian design and is reversible. It also comes with quality construction guarantees that will make it a winter essential for years to come.

**Expect to pay** £72



## THULE COVERT CSC SLING

[www.thule.com](http://www.thule.com)

For people who love the outdoors and love photography, this is the ideal gift. This rugged bag, with two carrying options, will keep their precious camera safe from damage while they search out the perfect spot for a stunning shot. It fits a camera, up to four lenses or flash and accessories.

**Expect to pay** £84.95



## BOGS SIDNEY PLAID BOOTS

[www.bogsfootwear.co.uk](http://www.bogsfootwear.co.uk)

Wellies for Christmas? Well these are wellies with attitude. In eye-catching tartan, these lace-up ankle boots give waterproof footwear a modern twist. The Neo-Tech Lite insulation also provides warmth down to -15 deg C.

**Expect to pay** £80



## FJALLRAVEN FOLDSACK NO.1

[www.fjallraven.co.uk](http://www.fjallraven.co.uk)

Simple, Scandinavian design at its best, Foldsack No.1 is made from durable and weather-resistant G-1000 fabric, making it suitable for country walks as well as everyday use – it even has a laptop pocket.

**Expect to pay** £85





Over £100



## JETBOIL MINIMO

[www.jetboil.com](http://www.jetboil.com)

Jetboil systems are hugely popular for boiling water with minimal fuel consumption, but the new MiniMo also allows you to simmer, sear and sauté. The new model features a powerful burner, a new regulator that maintains performance in cold weather and a new valve for simmer control.

**Expect to pay** £135

## ELLIOT BROWN MOUNTAIN RESCUE SPECIAL EDITION WATCH

[www.elliottbrownwatches.com](http://www.elliottbrownwatches.com)

Not only is this a great watch but 10% of the price goes to raising funds for the life saving Mountain Rescue England and Wales. A worthy cause.

**Expect to pay** £360



## AKU SUPERALP NBK GTX BOOT

[www.aku.it](http://www.aku.it)

Comfort and protection straight from the box. Ideal for backpackers who like to clock up the miles – and perfect for that pre-Christmas dinner hike!

**Expect to pay** £219.95

## GARMIN CAMPER 660LMT-D

[www.garmin.com](http://www.garmin.com)

This sat-nav system will lead you literally to your ideal campsite, filtering search results based on your preferred amenities. It also features road warnings for bridge heights, weight limits, sharp curves, steep gradients and more

**Expect to pay** £299.99



## SEVYLOR ADVENTURE

[www.sevylor-europe.com](http://www.sevylor-europe.com)

Great for thrill seekers and family campers alike, the versatile Adventure canoe features high sides for comfort and security on the water. Fast to inflate and compact to store, getting out and having fun on the water is easy.

**Expect to pay** £249.99



## PRIMUS LITE+

[www.primus.eu](http://www.primus.eu)

A stove system that will let you cook a meal or make a brew wherever you are or use the optional coffee press and turn it into a cafetiere. The aluminium pot comes with a lid that allows it to be used as a mug.

**Expect to pay** £110 plus £9 for coffee press







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Highlander 1W LED Telescopic Lantern

£14.99



1000 Mile 4 Season Walk Sock

£14.95



Klean Kanteen

FROM £13.75



Adventure Lights Guardian Tag-It Clip-On Light

£13.45



Condor Grenade Pouch

£8.99



Jack Pyke Gel Hand Warmers

£4.99



Nite Ize S-Biner Ahhh

£4.95



Nite Ize Curvman Cord Supervisor

£4.95



**NEW  
GEAR**

# CLIVE'S CHRISTMAS COLLECTION

## POWERTRAVELLER POWERMONKEY EXPLORER MICRO USB VERSION

[www.powertraveller.com](http://www.powertraveller.com)

Powertraveller's range of solar and more conventionally charged Powermonkey chargers is extensive, but with so many devices these days communicating and charging via micro USB, this compact unit can serve more than one purpose. The two solar panels are joined by a hinge, and there are slots here and at one end through which you can thread webbing straps or cord. The obvious mounting point if you're doing one of my weekend walks would be on top of your rucksack, with the connected battery unit nestling inside the top pocket. There's a small LCD to show the state of charge of battery and the unit you're charging, and a red light to show when it's taking current either from the solar panels or USB output (an adaptor and short cable is supplied). How many recharges you get out of the battery unit depends on what you're connecting, but typically, you'll be able to recharge phone, satnav or tablet once or twice before you need to boost the battery again. On a multi-day backpack, you'll most likely fall into a cycle of using the solar panels by day, and charging your toys by night. Weighs just over 170g, so very handy insurance for your electronics.

**Expect to pay** £48.00



# LIGHTWEIGHT *Scene* WITH CLIVE TULLY

Here are some inspirational, intriguing or just plain fun suggestions for Christmas gifts for the backpacker in your life.

## THERM-A-REST EVOLITE

[www.cascadedesigns.com](http://www.cascadedesigns.com)

It's an airbed. It's a foam mattress. Well, actually, it's both, and the combination is rather good. As you unroll Therm-A-Rest's EvoLite from its stuffsack and open the valve, the slightly skeletal Airframe configuration of foam ribs within the mattress begins to expand. You'll need to top up with a few breaths – I generally overfill slightly and then let out air until I get the right comfort level when I'm actually laying on it. What the combination of airbed and Atmos foam gives you is supreme comfort – all five centimetres, which is enough to swallow any bumps in the ground beneath you. But when it's time to pack up and start moving, the Regular size mattress (183 x 51cm) squishes down to 20 x 13cm, in a package weighing just over half a kilo.

**Verdict** It's not intended for really cold conditions, but for general three-season camping, the combination of high-loft comfort and packability is hard to beat.

**Expect to pay** £100.00



## MSR TALUS TR3

[www.cascadedesigns.com](http://www.cascadedesigns.com)

You really can't beat having a pair of trekking poles. They reduce wear and tear on your joints, provide extra stability on uneven terrain, allow you to give yourself an extra boost when you're toiling uphill, and extra security when going downhill or fording streams. The two or three-section telescopic jobs most favoured by walkers tend to adjust by means of twist-grip adjusters, or less commonly, lever-action locks. MSR's Talus comes with an entirely new system operated by a trigger at the base of the handgrip. The lower section pulls out to full length and clicks into place, while the middle section has a number of incremental steps giving you 5 cm steps between 105 and 130cm. The pole sections are tri-lobal – sort of circular, with a hint of triangle – which, say MSR, makes for greater stability than you'd get with standard tubular poles. The wrist straps are set in a conical section, so they feel really comfortable, especially when you put a bit of weight on them.

**Verdict** I tend to set my poles at 120cm, and that's how they stay whatever the terrain. But if you do prefer to adjust length mid-walk, the click stops make for positive adjustment. Not being able to set a length between the 5cm steps may possibly be an issue if you use your poles to support a tent, but otherwise you can't fault their slimline elegance and practical ease of use.

**Expect to pay** £110.00





## PRINCETON TEC HELIX BACKCOUNTRY

[www.whitbyandco.co.uk](http://www.whitbyandco.co.uk)

I must say I'm a bit of a stick-in-the-mud with my candle lantern – I like the warm flickering glow of light, and of course the actual heat generated can make quite a difference when the temperature drops.

But there's no denying the convenience of an LED lantern, particularly when it's as flashy as the Princeton Tec Helix Backcountry. I really do mean flashy, because apart from the maximum 150 lumens white light, the swipe control surface allows you to dim it down to 30, or you can set it to flash. It does the same with a red LED, too, and although that's supposed to be all about the preservation of night vision, you might just like the fact that it imparts a rather more romantic glow to your tent! It has a variety of hanging options, from the top as well as the folding feet, and the diffusing globe not only collapses for storage, but in use soaks up light so the moment you switch off, it gives off a luminous green glow to help you find it in the dark.

The Backcountry takes three AAA batteries – there's a larger version called Basecamp (£59.95) which runs on AA batteries, and there are a couple of more exotic models offering rechargeability, and even Bluetooth control!

**Expect to pay** £39.95

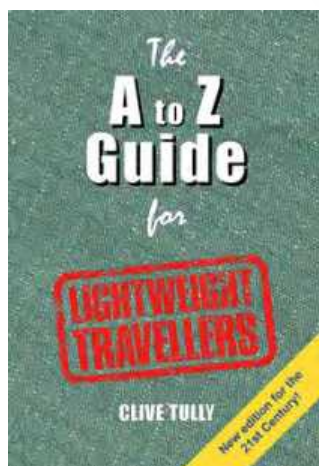


## THE A TO Z GUIDE FOR LIGHTWEIGHT TRAVELLERS

[www.bit.ly/lightweight\\_traveller](http://www.bit.ly/lightweight_traveller)

If you happen to have a Kindle or other device which allows you to read Amazon Kindle books, then this entertaining and informative volume will expand your knowledge of backpacking, as well as showing you how you can apply the principles to other forms of travel. Better still, it won't add an ounce to your Kindle. Regular Camping readers are already familiar with the author – it's me!

**Expect to pay** £2.70



## BERGANS TROLLHETTA 55L RUCKSACK

[www.bergans.com](http://www.bergans.com)

If getting yourself shod with decent footwear is the number one priority for backpackers, then a good rucksack has to come not far behind. The Trollhetta 55L from Norwegian company Bergans is just the right size for one of my weekend walks. It's not a brand spanking new model, and while it looks like a classic back length adjustable top-loading pack, this latest version comes with some interesting tweaks.

The Spine Adjustable back uses a couple of sturdy ladder-stitched Nylon tapes to provide the mounting points for the shoulder harness, easily accessed via a couple of Velcro-fastened flaps on the back. It's an easy way of providing adjustability, while the top tension straps use buckles which can unclip and relocate into different mountings, something not all adjustable back rucksacks do. There's a ventilated section between the shoulder and lumbar pads, while the hip belt is nicely shaped on the inner surface so it stays put without excessive tightening.

The front panel includes a slip-in mesh pocket with quick-release buckle fastening – the kind of place you might keep a waterproof jacket or overtrousers on a changeable day. Directly behind it is a zipped panel giving you access into the main compartment of the pack when you don't want to open up via the lid, and on the underside of that panel is a zipped mesh pocket. Each side of the pack has stretch mesh pockets, while two compression straps on each side allow you not just to adjust the volume of the pack, but to attach accessory side pockets or a sleeping mat.

The lid isn't just detachable (can be attached to a belt to form a rudimentary waist pack), but extendable. With the snowlock extension at the top of the pack itself, it gives you the means to pack extra gear when you need. You also get attachment points for walking poles, and the pack includes an internal pocket and opening to be hydration system compatible. Personally, I still prefer to stop and get a bottle out...

**Verdict** Excellent quality, solidly made, and with lots of features offering adaptability.

**Expect to pay** £250.00

## WACACO MINIPRESSO

[www.eskimoagency.com](http://www.eskimoagency.com)

Just because you're going backpacking doesn't mean you have to forgo all of life's little luxuries, although admittedly for some, a shot of coffee in the morning is more of a necessity. But instead of packing some freeze-dried instant, now you can take some proper ground coffee and brew up your own espresso.

Minipresso is a 360 gm pocket-sized coffee-making machine – simply add a capful of ground coffee into the filter end of this compact vaguely torpedo-like device, and hot water in the reservoir at the other end. Then unlock the piston on the side and start pumping. In a few seconds, out comes a beautiful espresso, extracted under an average pressure of 8 bars (that's actually four times the pressure in my car's tyres!)

**Verdict** Apart from fulfilling its function producing real coffee, its slightly space-age looks make it very much a thing of beauty. Good for travelling anytime, whether you're camping or not, as well as rustling up a quick shot at home.

**Expect to pay** £48.00





**NEW  
GEAR**

# CLIVE'S CHRISTMAS COLLECTION



## ROBENS BUZZARD UL

[www.robens.co.uk](http://www.robens.co.uk)

Just like last year, I thought I might tantalise you with a tent which isn't available at this precise moment, but which will be hitting the stores early 2016. The Buzzard first saw the light of day a couple of years ago as part of Robens' Lite range, and at the time, it seemed as though the 40 denier siliconised Nylon flysheet was pretty state of the art, producing a tent that afforded good accommodation for two, but weighing in at just under two kilos. Two years further on, and this latest development is an ultralight Buzzard just half the weight. The flysheet is now a gossamer thin 10 denier, while the 75 denier polyester groundsheet fabric has been replaced with 20. To top it all, the main pole which provides the transverse hoop has been beefed up from 8.5 to 9mm, but with further weight savings achieved by using carbon fibre for the uprights at each end.

In other respects, it's pretty much the same, apart from a slight difference with the vent cowl at each end, and the mesh construction

of the inner. It pitches all in one, although the natty little quick-release fasteners allow you to separate the inner if you need. At this weight, there are few reasons why you would want to bother.

The pole sleeve is one-way, with a reflective tab to indicate the location of the open end, while the tip on the other end of the pole locates in a grommet at ground level. With the short carbon fibre upright at each end of the tent in place, a peg at each end is enough to get the structure standing while you finish off the rest

of the pegging. The pegging points themselves are cords running through friction adjusters, so it's easy enough to find a stone-free location for your peg and tighten up to suit.

Given the extreme slippiness of siliconised Nylon (even if the underside is PU coated), it's just as well the door panel is secured with one of Robens' gripping toggles, which ensures the rolled back panel doesn't slither undone. The door opens into the porch, which runs the full length of the side of the tent – enough room for a couple of rucksacks and

other bits while still maintaining access. Of course, at this weight, you might just consider using it as palatial accommodation for one!

Unlike the standard Buzzard, the inner door simply unzips and rolls down to ground level, secured with a couple of loop and toggle ties, while the inner itself is 100% mesh. The fact that it's more breathable simplifies things compared with the standard Buzzard, since the UL doesn't have the zipped panels at each end or in the inner door to regulate ventilation. That, and the relatively open nature of the cowl over the flysheet vents does make this a tent that would be more comfortable with two to three season use, and likewise you might think twice about exposed pitches where you might experience wind-driven rain.

### VERDICT

Although you do need to accept it comes with certain compromises, for the amount of space inside, under a kilo is pretty amazing. \*

### MORE INFORMATION

**Berths** 2

**Weight** 0.995kg

**Pitching time** 5 minutes

**Style** single transverse hoop with upright at each end

**Size** 235cm x 150cm Inner 215cm x 100cm (90cm)

**Packed size** 35cm x 12cm

**Materials** Outer HydroTex UL, 10D Nylon, both side siliconised, fire retardant, 3000 mm Inner 10D Nylon mesh Groundsheet 20D ripstop polyester, 5000 mm

Poles Alloy #7001 T6 9 mm / Carbon 9.5 mm Pegs 10 aluminium V section

**Expect to pay** £399.99



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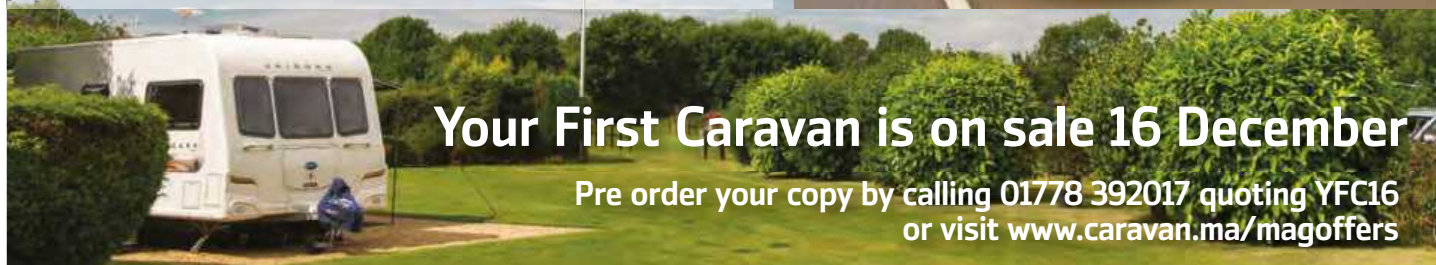
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# THE REALLY USEFUL STUFF

Whether you're a newcomer to camping or a grizzled old veteran there's always something new to learn. Here you'll find some of the really useful stuff that is guaranteed to improve your camping life.

## THE DUFFER'S GUIDE

### TACKLING CONDENSATION

Camping editor Iain Duff's quick tips for dealing with moisture in your tent



Condensation is a natural and unavoidable part of outdoor living. It can be managed but not eradicated so there's no point in getting too hung up about it.

Don't confuse condensation with a leak in your tent. Just because water is dripping from the roof, it doesn't mean it's come from outside.



Ventilation is key. Panels (usually mesh-backed) at the rear and above doors and windows allow air to flow through the tent without letting rain in. Leave the panels open as much as possible to keep condensation down to a minimum.

A sewn-in groundsheet can prevent air from circulating freely. Unfortunately, without one your tent could be cold and wet inside, so you'll have to balance up the pros and cons.



Don't cook inside your tent. This rule applies for several important safety reasons but it will also keep moisture levels down. The steam from cooking generates lots of condensation.

Likewise avoid eating hot food inside your tent as the heat and steam will add to the problem.

Don't have visitors round. A large number of people breathing in your tent will cause moisture build-up.

Sheltering from the rain with all the doors, windows and vents closed and a heater blasting out hot air sounds tempting but will generate loads of condensation.



Avoid bringing wet gear and clothing into the tent. Put it in the car boot if you can, or leave it in the front porch.

Try to air off sleeping mats and sleeping bags every morning.

When packing up, try to dry your tent fly and groundsheet. Even if it hasn't been raining both will be damp with condensation. \*





# Guyrope Gourmet

## Guyrope Gourmet Josh Sutton heads to the Lake District and finds some brotherly love.

I don't get to the Lake District all that often, and considering that it's less than a couple of hours by car from my hometown, some might call that sacrilege. I guess I would have to agree. Deciding to right this terrible wrong, I booked a weekend in the diary and invited my younger brother along for company. We strapped the mountain bikes to the back of the Nan the van and set off, heading north on the A65 towards the old stomping ground of one of this country's best known poets, William Wordsworth. "Where are we going then?" my brother asked after about half an hours driving. Brothers Water, I told him. Where else would you go in the Lake District for a weekend of fraternal bonding?

Brothers Water is a tiny lake in comparison to the rest of its siblings in the area, more a pond really.

It lies just south of Ullswater at the foot of Kirkstone Pass on the A592. Wordsworth described the scene beautifully with the opening verse to his poem, 'Brothers Water' which he wrote in 1802

*The cock is crowing  
The stream is flowing  
The small birds twitter  
The lake doth glitter...  
There's joy in the mountains  
There's life in the fountains*

Apart from the cock crowing, as we arrived in the late afternoon, it seemed that little had changed in just over two centuries. We gazed in wonder as we rolled down off the mountain pass and the evening sun shimmered on the surface of the lake in front of us. Nice spot brother.

I'd booked us on to Sykeside campsite, a





beautiful flat field flanked by mountainous crags and a great view north towards Brothers Water. The site is open all year round and is well served by Wi-Fi. There is a bunk barn for hire, or if you don't fancy pitching a tent, but want that canvas feeling, then you can contact Nomad Events, who with prior arrangement, will come along and pitch a Tipi for you. Sykeside is a perfect site for exploring this part of the Lake District. The fact that it is situated just behind the Brothers Water Inn was an added bonus. I'd figured if the weather turned sour, then my brother and I could easily retire to the bar.

Choosing to stock up with victuals and supplies in Windermere on the way in we came across Claytons butchers on Crescent Road. Opting for a couple of healthy sized fresh lamb chops, I figured I'd treat my brother to a bit of a middle eastern feast

after the arduous bike ride he'd planned out for the following day. Claytons has been trading in Windermere since 1907, but the present owners, Andrew and Sharon Wright have been in charge since 1998. A traditional butcher shop in the high street what more could a hungry camper want?

I owe a debt of thanks to a chap called Alan Harrison for this month's recipe. Alan had been Tweeting about this recipe and it sounded amazing so with mouth watering, I contacted him for further details. A pilaf is basically a rice dish with added extras and the extras in this case are dried apricots and almonds. The apricots soften a little during the cooking process and add a delicious sweetness that comes through over the hint of cinnamon and coriander. It was perfect with the two lamb chops, which I chose to grill over charcoal on my trusty bucket barbecue. \*

## CHICKPEA AND APRICOT PILAF

### INGREDIENTS

250g Basmati rice  
1 large onion, thinly sliced  
2 cloves of garlic, finely chopped  
2 teaspoons of ground cinnamon  
2 tablespoons of tomato puree  
500ml of vegetable stock  
Olive oil  
A handful of chopped almonds  
A handful of chopped dried apricots  
Fresh coriander

### METHOD

Cook the sliced onion and garlic in olive oil until soft. Add 2 teaspoons of ground cinnamon and two tablespoons of tomato puree. Stir in 300g of basmati rice. Add stock to cover the rice and simmer gently for 10 minutes. Add a tin of chickpeas (drained) and a handful of chopped apricots and a handful of chopped almonds. Simmer for a further five minutes and add chopped fresh coriander to serve.



### STAY AT

#### SYKESIDE CAMPSITE

Brotherswater, Patterdale,  
Cumbria CA11 0NZ  
01768 482239  
[sykeside.co.uk](http://sykeside.co.uk)  
[info@sykeside.co.uk](mailto:info@sykeside.co.uk)

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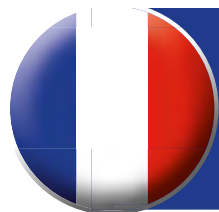
[www.nomadevents.co.uk](http://www.nomadevents.co.uk)

[www.claytonsbutchers.co.uk](http://www.claytonsbutchers.co.uk)



**Left** Sykeside Campsite in the heart of the Lake District





# VISIT THE DORDOGNE

## IN 2016...



If sensational scenery, fabulous food and wonderful weather are high on your holiday wishlist, we've got just the destination for you.

The lush valleys and rolling hills of France's famous Dordogne region provide some of the most incredible views in France, and the area is named for the gently-winding river that meanders its way steadily towards the sea. Soaring cliffs rise above the river and stand sentinel over the golden-stone villages that dot the region. The Dordogne has plenty to offer the active and adventurous visitor, too.

Rivers canoeing and cycling, châteaux and caves; this region has it all. And after a day spent exploring, why not relax in one of the many restaurants, with a glass of delicious local wine and a plate of tasty, locally produced fare? Make memories you'll never forget.

### TOP 10 THINGS TO DO:

- 1 Canoe the Dordogne river
- 2 Visit a fairytale château
- 3 Gardens of Marqueyssac
- 4 Cave of Lascaux
- 5 Do a Bergerac wine tour
- 6 Beautiful villages to visit in the Dordogne: Peynac, La Roque Gageac and Domme
- 7 Barge rides on Dordogne River
- 8 Eat, drink and be merry
- 9 Visit Sarlat market
- 10 Périgueux street market



### SUNSHINE CHART (AVG. HOURS OF SUNSHINE PER DAY)



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<b>St Malo</b>	391 miles	<b>Roscoff</b>	476 miles
<b>Le Havre</b>	379 miles	<b>Santander</b>	350 miles

### USEFUL WEBSITES

[www.northofthedordogne.com](http://www.northofthedordogne.com)  
[www.about-france.com](http://www.about-france.com)  
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[www.francethisway.com](http://www.francethisway.com)  
[www.tripadvisor.co.uk](http://www.tripadvisor.co.uk)



## CAMPING MAISONNEUVE

★★★★

### Castelnau la Chapelle

- Heated toilet block
- Very well situated for all major towns and amenities
- Free wi-fi

#### Opening dates

01/04/2016 – 31/10/2016

Charming French campsite on an old farm. The setting is stunning, with a river running the full length of the site.


[www.campingmaisonneuve.com](http://www.campingmaisonneuve.com)

## LE VÈZÈRE PÉRIGORD

★★★★

### Tursac

- Large pitches,
- River 300m away,
- Heated swimming pool

#### Opening dates

From 25/04/2016

Situated 7km from Les Eyzies-de-Tayac, 18km from Lascaux Caves, 23km from the city centre of Sarlat-la-Canéda. Campsite le Vézère Périgord is nestled in a lush, green environment close to some of the most prestigious prehistoric sites.

Touring pitches: 15% discount from 25/04 until 30/06 and 01/09 until 31/09/2016.

[www.levezerereperigord.com](http://www.levezerereperigord.com)


## CAMPING LES PÉNEYRALS

★★★★★

### Saint-Crépin-et-Carlucet

- All facilities open from May to September
- Heated swimming pools
- Heated toilet block in low season

#### Opening dates

04/05/2016 – 11/09/2016

Spend your holiday 10km from Sarlat at Les Péneyrals, in a perfect location between Dordogne and Vézère.


[www.peneyrals.com](http://www.peneyrals.com)

## LE MOULIN DE PAULHIAC

★★★★★

### Daglan

- Pool complex
- Water play
- Restaurant

#### Opening dates

5/05/2016 – 19/09/2016

Le Moulin de Paulhiac is a rustic park that offers a taste of traditional French charm, with a new pool complex with three slides, four pools and a spray park for the kids. You'll find it just 3km from Daglan.


[www.moulin-de-paulhiac.com](http://www.moulin-de-paulhiac.com)

## LES PASTOURELS

★★★★

### Veyrines-de-Domme

- Exceptional panoramic views
- Many footpaths meet at the campsite (including GR 64)

#### Opening dates

15/05/2016 – 10/09/2016

Les Pastourels looks out over the Château des Milandes and the valley of the Dordogne. It is in an area that is peaceful, green and shady. It covers more than 12 hectares of forest, walnut trees and pasture.


[www.lespastourels.com](http://www.lespastourels.com)

## CAMPING DE LA PÉLONIE

★★★★

### Saint Antoine d'Auberoche

- Indoor heated swimming pool
- Waterslides
- Wi-fi

#### Opening dates

From 15/04/2015

Pleasant, lush green campsite situated in the heart of the Dordogne, 15km from Périgueux.


[www.lapelonie.com](http://www.lapelonie.com)

## LA PALOMBIÈRE

★★★★★

### Sainte-Nathalène, Sarlat

- For 2016, an amazing covered pool with water slides, jacuzzi and children's area
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- Spa (wellness centre)

#### Opening dates

30/04/2016 – 18/09/2016

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[www.lapalombiere.fr](http://www.lapalombiere.fr)

## LES GROTTES DE ROFFY

★★★★★

### Sarlat

- Pretty campsite planted with trees and flowers in the heart of Périgord

#### Opening dates

Mid-Apr until mid-Sep

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[www.roffy.fr](http://www.roffy.fr)



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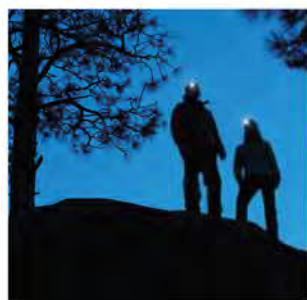
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